



## WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

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We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

### Are you new? Get connected!

Are you interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Email [info@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca) or call 613.235.0596. Also check out our website at [messiahchurch.ca](http://messiahchurch.ca)

### Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am Service. For Nursery, please bring children to the lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to "follow the cross" during the last worship song.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Rev. Canon George Sinclair <b>Rector</b>	Daniel Gilman <b>Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship</b>
Shirley Allan <b>Administrator</b>	<b>Wardens:</b> Dick Butler Jeremiah Hadwen Earl Maynard Shannon Ripley Karl Ruban Dana Scherf
Jonathan Camiré <b>Ministry Intern</b>	
Deborah Reid <b>Worship Leader</b>	

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.
- 2) Email your contribution to [givings@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:givings@messiahchurch.ca) Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
- 3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Give" tab (far right side) on our website ([messiahchurch.ca](http://messiahchurch.ca))
- 4) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: [info@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca)

FINANCIAL UPDATE AT JULY 10, 2016

Target Offering: \$ 159,962

Actual Offering: \$ 146,948

## OUR ROOTS: PART 2: Church business meetings

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Dear friends,

Over the summer with these blogs, I am going to look at some classic Anglican doctrine. Today we will look at Anglicanism's understanding of church "councils". In other words, meetings of church leaders who are entrusted to make decisions. Please note, on one hand this is relevant to the meetings of even small local churches. But the main purpose is to look at national and international councils. I have modernized the language, but here, in its entirety, is Article 21 of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion.

**"XXI. Of the authority of General Councils.** General Councils may not be gathered together without the commandment and will of princes. And when they be gathered together (forasmuch as they be an assembly of men and women, and not everyone will be governed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God), they may err (make mistakes) and sometimes have erred, even in things about God. Wherefore, any decisions made by the council as being necessary for salvation, have neither strength nor authority, unless it may be declared that they be taken out of Holy Scripture."

Several things. First, the opening sentence is dated, but it still makes good sense. The meeting or council needs to be legal. Here we notice one weakness of the Articles. It is a weakness of all historical documents. The Article was written for a nation that allowed and encouraged the Christian faith. They were not addressing what a church should do in Iran or China.

Second, while the Article can be "dated" in some ways, God's Word is not dated. It is an always relevant word over time.

Third, when church leaders meet to decide matters, you can never assume they are all true Christians. Even if they are all true Christians, you cannot assume they are seeking to submit their heart and mind to the Holy Spirit and God's Word written. Christians can have hard and impenitent hearts and minds. We can also have our minds submitted to selfish ambitions or ideology or nationalism or many other matters. So, church councils make mistakes - sometimes horrendous mistakes.

Fourth, the Bible is to be the check on decisions. We cannot look into someone's heart to see whether they were or were not submitting to the Holy Spirit. But we can see whether their decisions are derived from and consistent with what the Bible teaches. God's Word judges church decisions. George +