

**ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Diocese of the Northeast United States**

St. Paul's Anglican Church
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CONSERVATIVE ANGLICANS TO MEET IN MAINE

Conservative Anglican clerics and laity from the six New England States and New York will meet in Maine this fall, welcoming new parishes and clergy into their midst at a time when much of the Anglican world is in turmoil. The Diocese of the Northeast of the Anglican Church in America (ACA) will hold its annual synod in Ellsworth Maine, September 27 - 29. The synod is hosted by St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Ellsworth and its Rector, the Rev. Canon Granville V. Henthorne. The synod will take place just before the date when the Episcopal Church USA is scheduled to make an official statement which has the potential to sever that body's connection with other churches in the Canterbury-based Anglican Communion.

The conservative Anglican Church in America (ACA) is not part of the Episcopal Church. The Ellsworth assembly will focus on ongoing efforts to seek closer relationships with other orthodox Christians, including Roman Catholics, and the need to open its doors to those who are leaving the "mainstream" churches which are "steadily moving the secular agenda to center stage and pushing God and Holy Scripture back into the wings," in the words of Diocesan Bishop George Langberg, who will chair the 2007 Synod.

Bishop Langberg, who currently also serves as President of the ACA's House of Bishops, added, "We have reached a point where Anglicans in the USA have to choose whether they are going to follow the path long ago established by God or a new one recently designed by man."

The Anglican Church in America emerged in response to theological and liturgical innovations adopted by the Episcopal Church in the 1970's, the most obvious of which were a new Eucharistic liturgy and women in the role of priests and bishops. The ACA is part of a movement, often called the "Continuing Church," which rejected those changes, and which has grown slowly but steadily since it was started by "refugees" from the larger church in the late seventies. It has gained increased prominence and experienced substantial growth since the Episcopal Church's 2003 election and consecration of self-declared homosexual Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire.