

Conflict and Concord in the Anglican Communion





The Prayer Book speaks of...


“...the
changes &
chances of this life”



This is clearly a time of
change for all who
minister in the
Church.



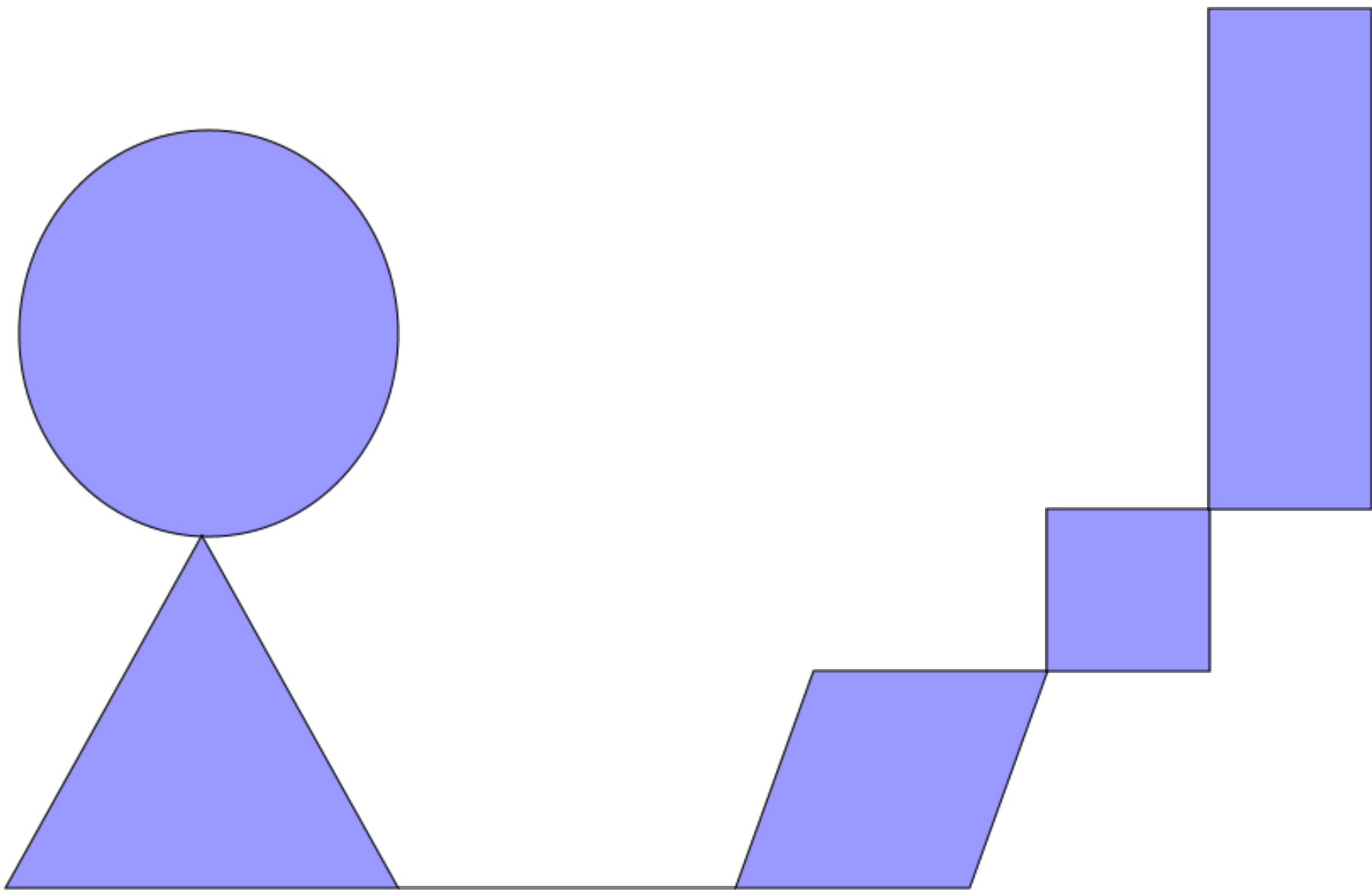
There are many people
who don't like
change.



“If you don’t like change,
you’re going to like
irrelevance
a lot less.”

-- General Eric Shinseki
U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs
and former U.S. Army Chief of Staff







In times of change & anxiety...



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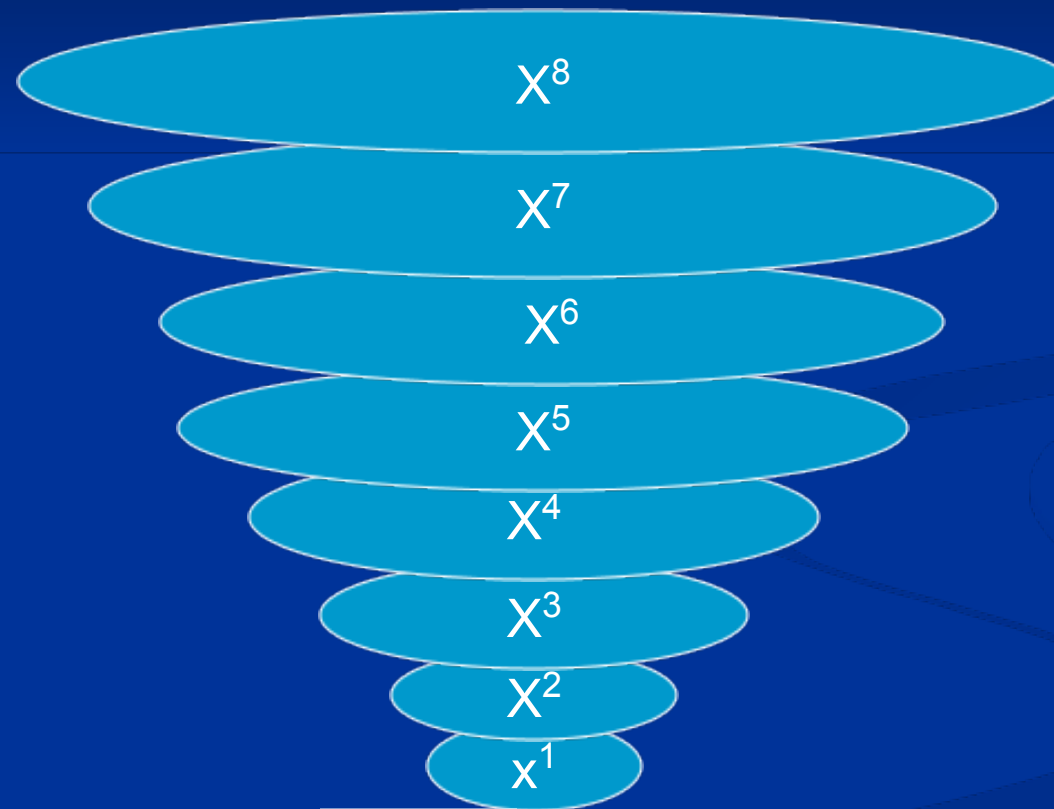
things can escalate very quickly,



In times of change & anxiety...

things can escalate very quickly,
spiraling out of control!

The Dangerous Spiral



From Carpenter & Kennedy

What is X?

The image features a solid blue background. In the upper center, the text "What is X?" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "What" is yellow, "is" is white, and "X?" is white. In the bottom right corner, there are several overlapping, wavy, light blue lines that create a sense of motion or depth, resembling a stylized landscape or abstract pattern.

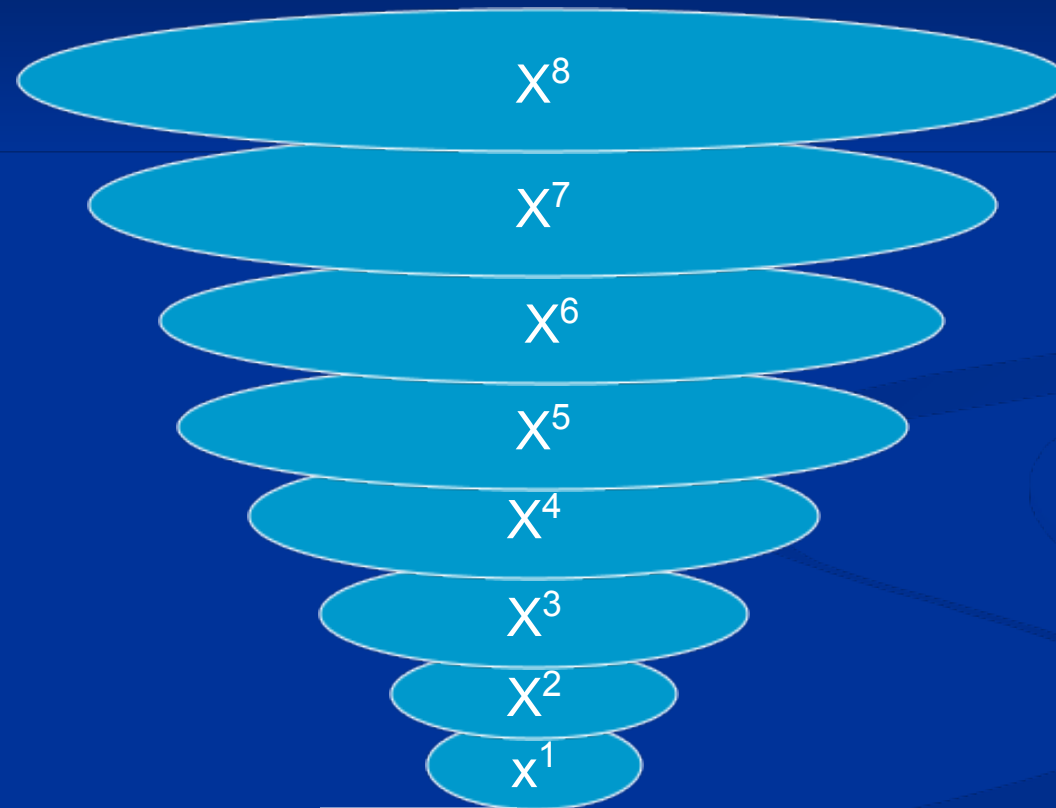
What is X?

X = a given issue or situation that produces anxiety, frustration, or conflict

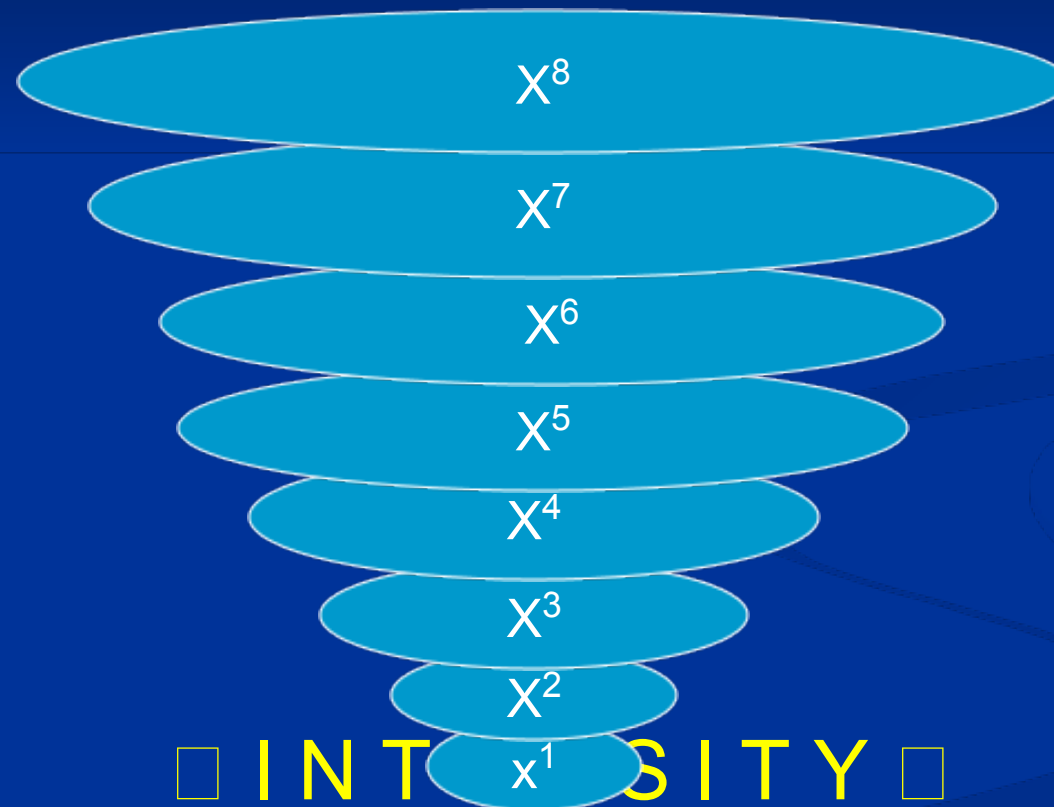
What is X?

As time moves on, if X is left unmanaged,
it returns in a different guise, and
the intensity of emotions surrounding X
increases significantly!

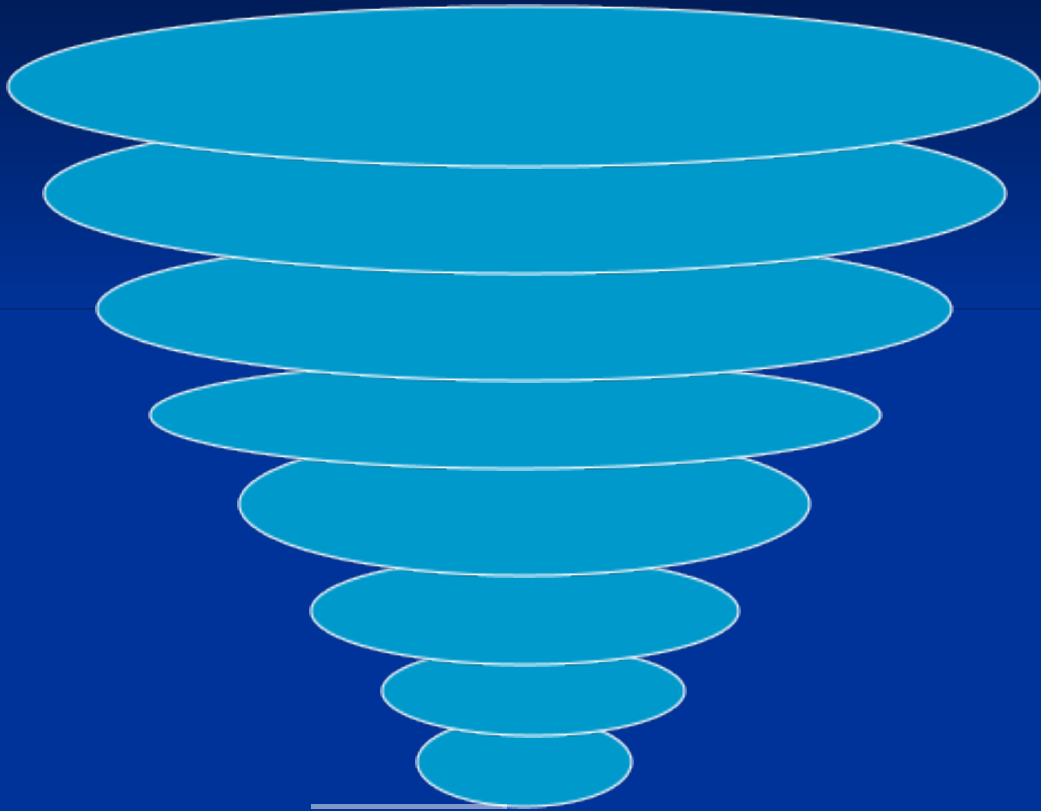
The Deadly Spiral



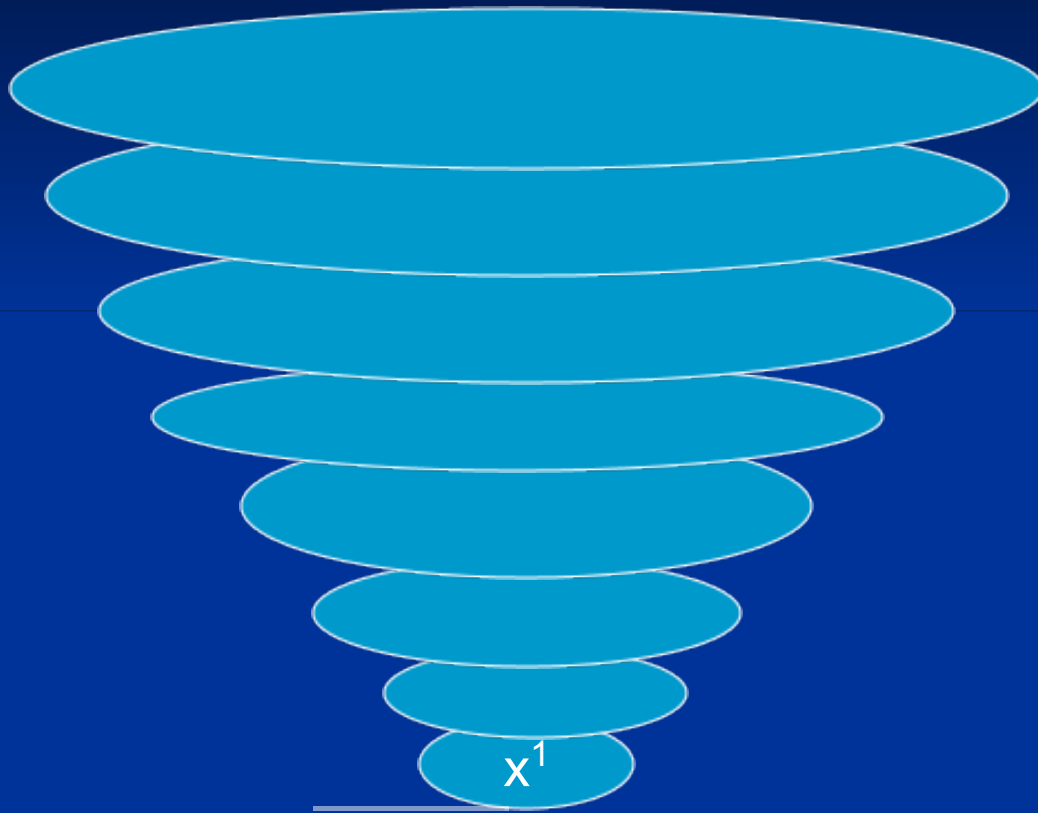
The Deadly Spiral



What happens at each level?

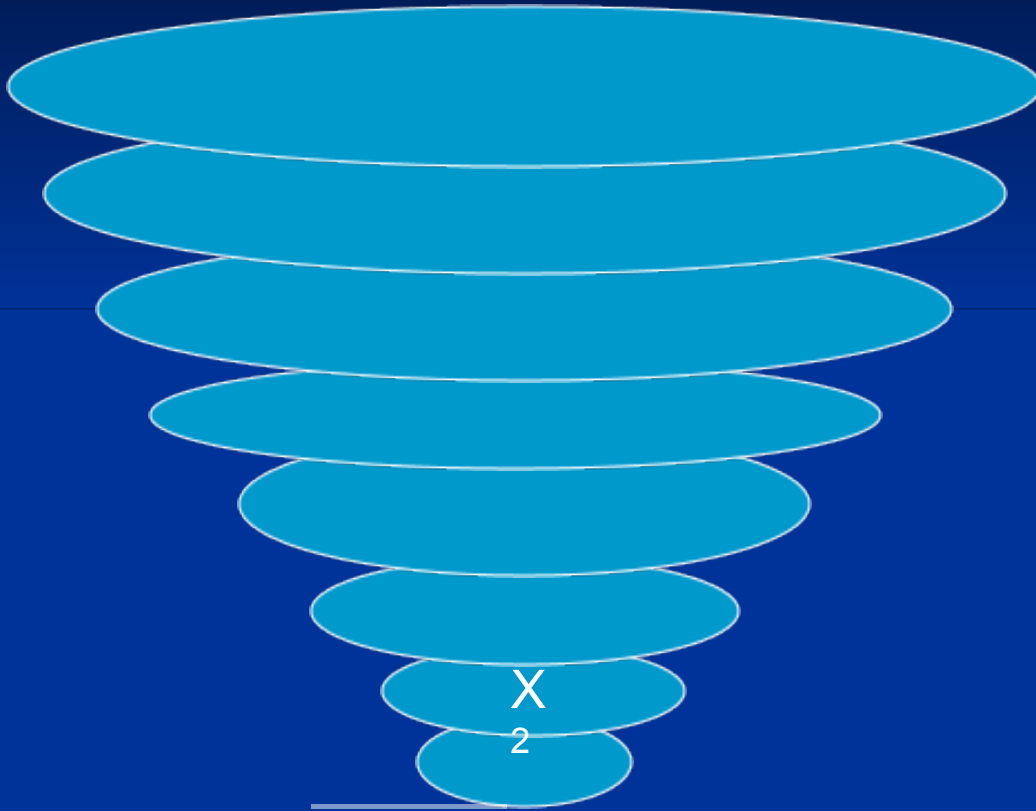


What happens at each level?



Problem Emerges

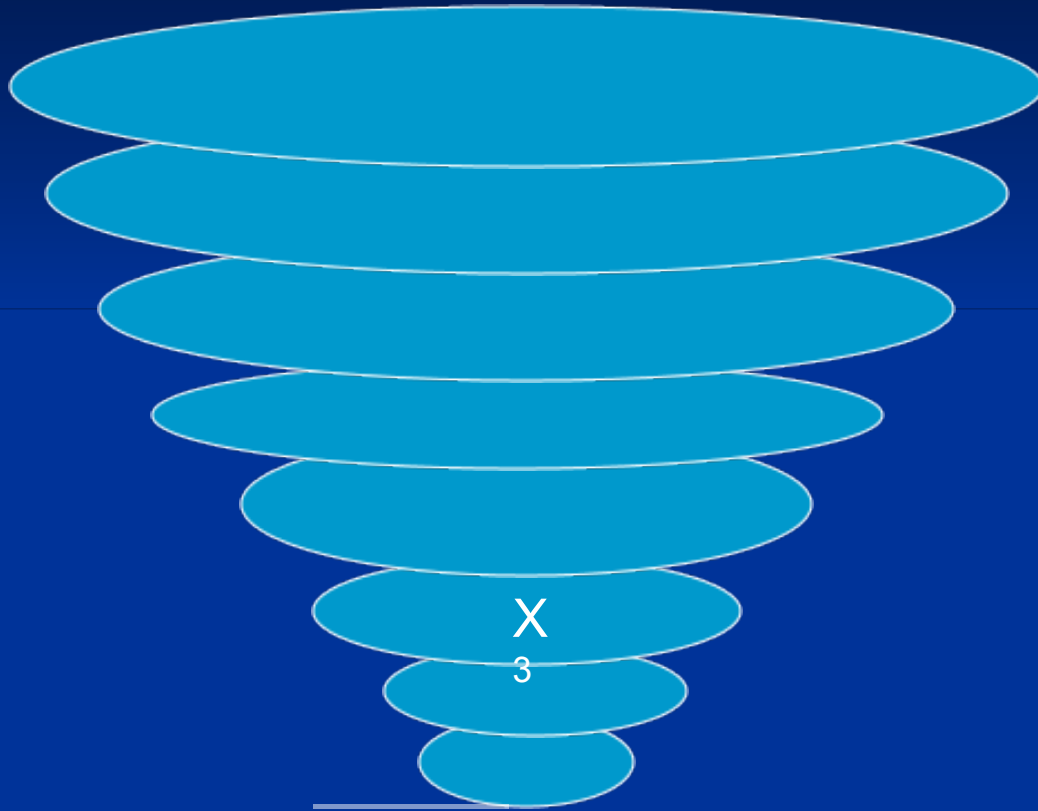
What happens at each level?



Sides form

Problem Emerges

What happens at each level?

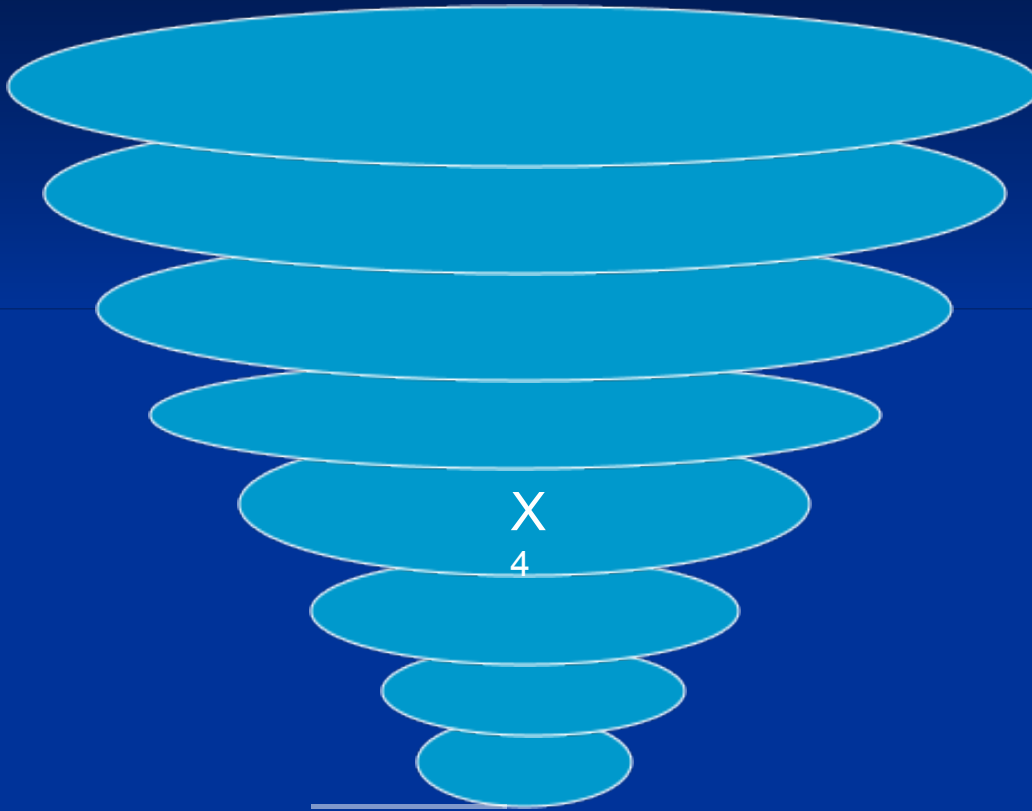


Positions harden

Sides form

Problem emerges

What happens at each level?



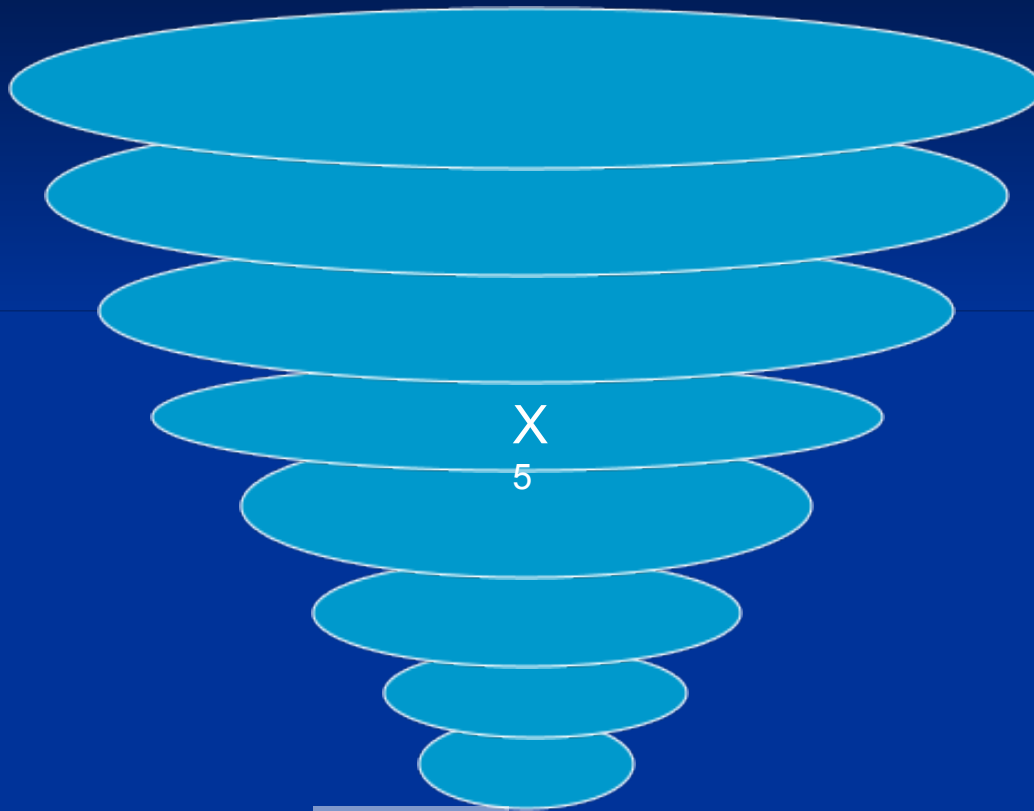
Communication stops

Positions harden

Sides form

Problem emerges

What happens at each level?



Resources are committed

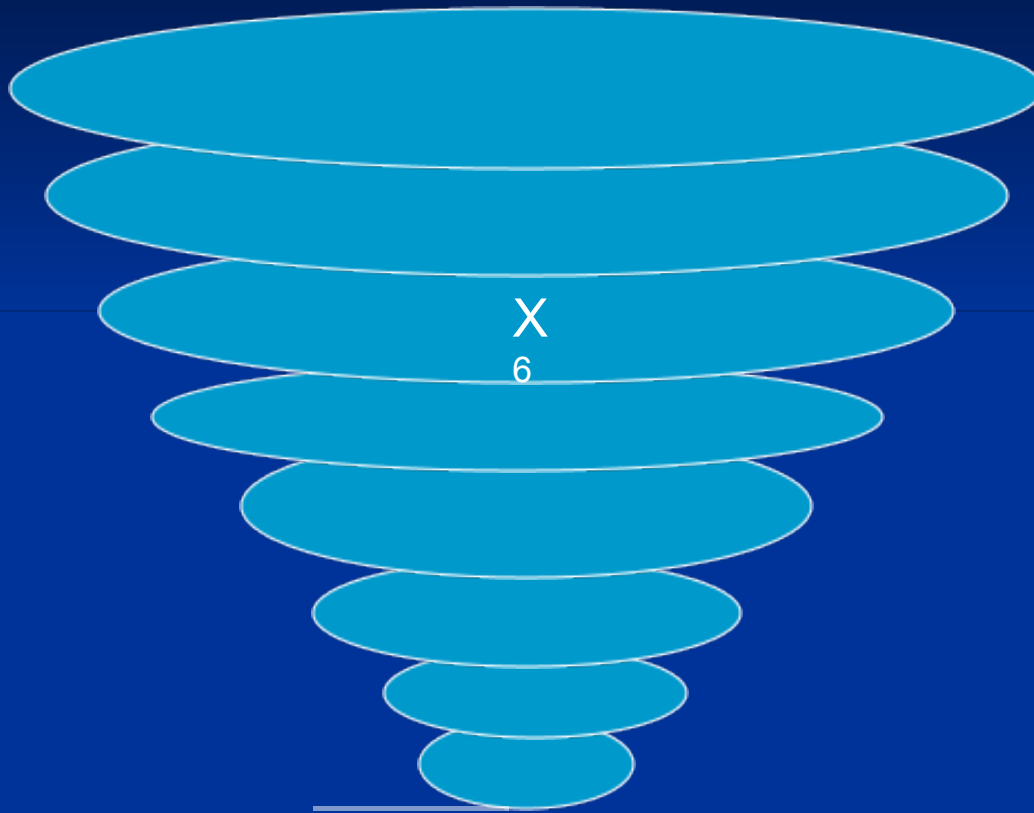
Communication stops

Positions harden

Sides form

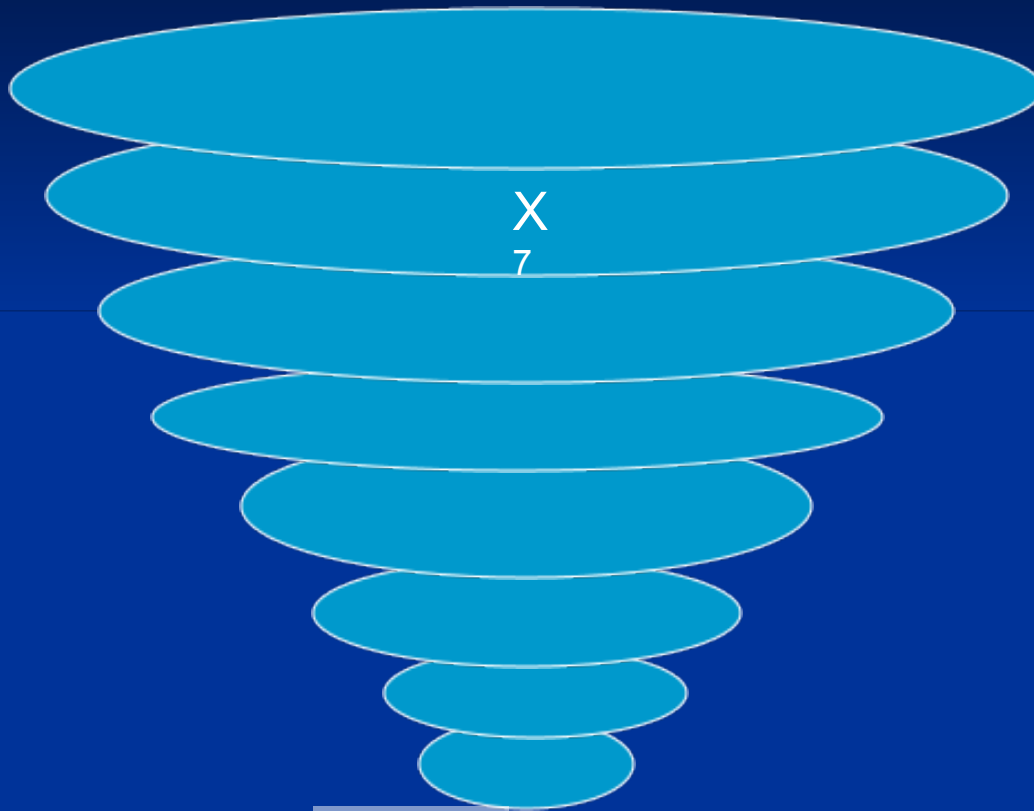
Problem emerges

What happens at each level?



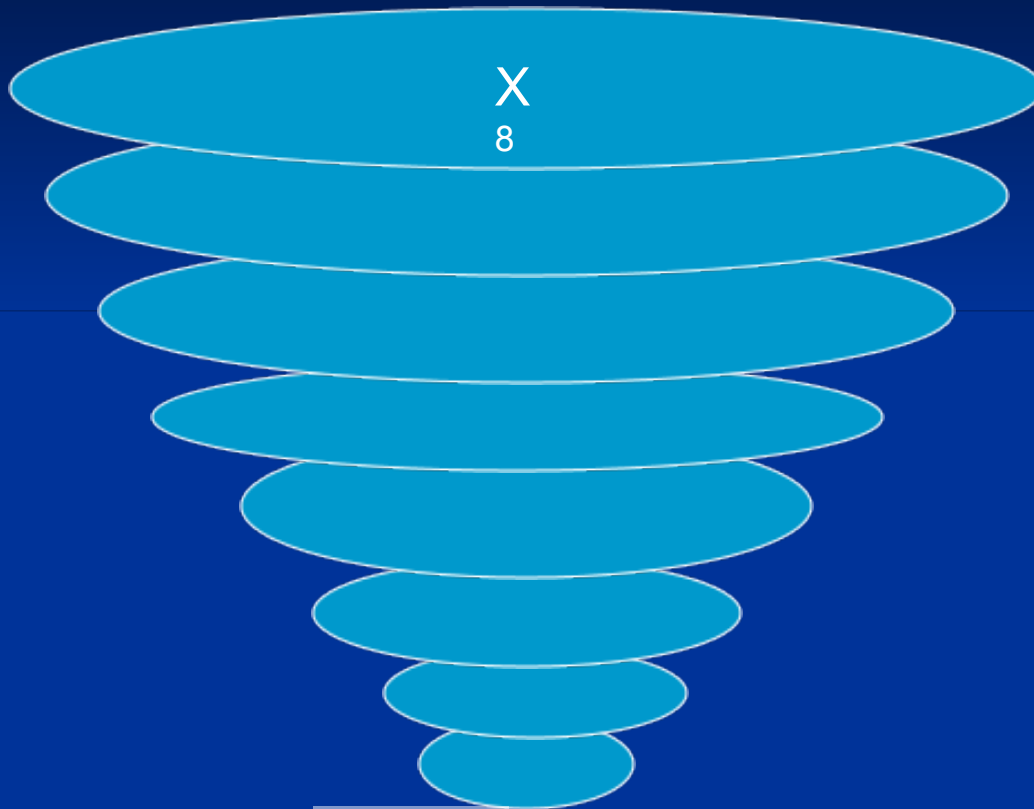
Conflict spills outside
Resources are committed
Communication stops
Positions harden
Sides form
Problem emerges

What happens at each level?



Perceptions are distorted
Conflict spills outside
Resources are committed
Communication stops
Positions harden
Sides form
Problem emerges

What happens at each level?



Sense of crisis emerges
Perceptions are distorted
Conflict spills outside
Resources are committed
Communication stops
Positions harden
Sides form
Problem emerges



Recognize the level of anxiety



Recognize the level of anxiety

- Solutions that work at a lower level will NOT work on a higher level. In fact, they can even work AGAINST us.



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- As we move up the spiral, our interaction itself becomes the primary issue.

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- Solutions that work at a lower level will NOT work on a higher level. In fact, they can even work AGAINST us.
- As we move up the spiral, our interaction itself becomes the primary issue.
- Once we reach level 7, it is almost impossible to go back down the spiral.

A more excellent way

- Gregory the Great: "Those that are at variance can by no means become spiritual if they neglect being united to one another in concord."

A more excellent way

- Richard Hooker “translated many of the confusing and destructive conflicts into ... a pragmatic and tolerant middle way between the tempting dogmatisms of his day” (Philip Secor).

Lambeth Conferences

- Archbishop Longley (1867):

“It has never been contemplated that we should assume the functions of a general synod of all the Churches in full communion with the Church of England, and take upon ourselves to enact canons that should be binding upon those here represented.”

Lambeth Conferences

- Archbishop Tait (1875):

“I think it should be a work of love in which we should be engaged—the extension of Christ’s kingdom—and that we may be able by friendly intercourse to strengthen each other’s hands.”

Lambeth Conferences

- Archbishop Benson (1888):

“The task assigned [Augustine] has surely fulfilled itself in the manifoldness of this Communion, the embracingness, the comprehensiveness, and the integrity of her spirit...that there may be liberty in things doubtful or indifferent.”

Lambeth Conferences

- Encyclical Letter of 1908 Conference:

“We belong to a Church which, in the words of one of our number who has entered into rest, is the Church of free [persons], educating them into a knowledge of the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free.”

Lambeth Conferences

- Encyclical Letter of 1920 Conference:
“In the past negotiations for reunion have often started with attempts to define the measure of uniformity which is essential. Now we see that those elements of truth about which differences have arisen are essential to the fullness of the witness of the whole Church.”

Lambeth Conferences

- Encyclical Letter of 1930 Conference:
“The Conference calls upon all members of the Anglican Communion to promote the cause of union by fostering and deepening in all possible ways the fellowship of the Anglican Communion itself.”

From Lambeth to Philadelphia

- William White: The Episcopal Church

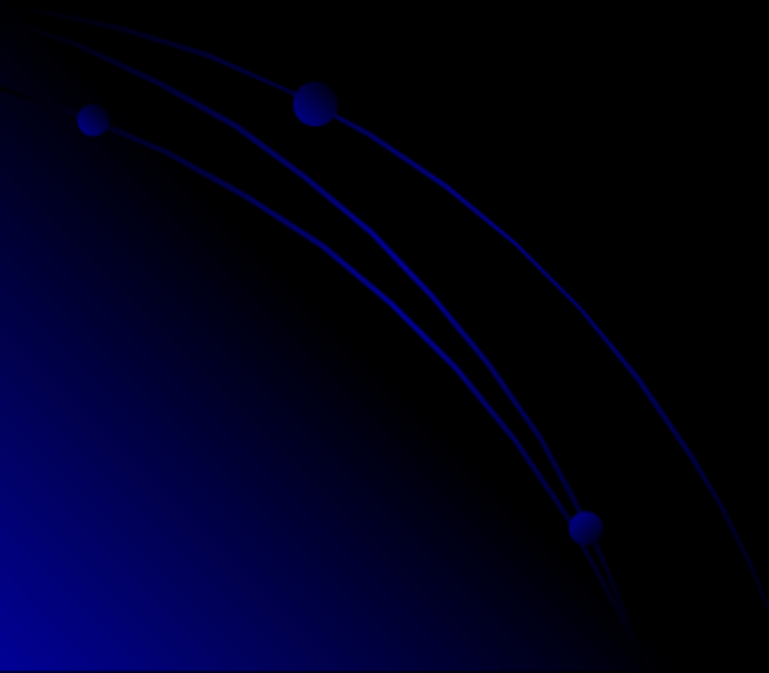
“A church government that will contain the constituent principles of the Church of England, and yet be independent of foreign jurisdiction or influence would remove the anxiety which at present hangs heavy on the minds of many a sincere person.”

Lambeth 78, Resolution 21

- 21.2: “Distress and pain to many”
- 21.3: “Autonomy of each Church”
- 21.4: “Unity within and between”
- 21.5: “Continue in communion”
- 21.7: *“Our holding together of diversity within a unity of faith and worship is part of the Anglican heritage”*

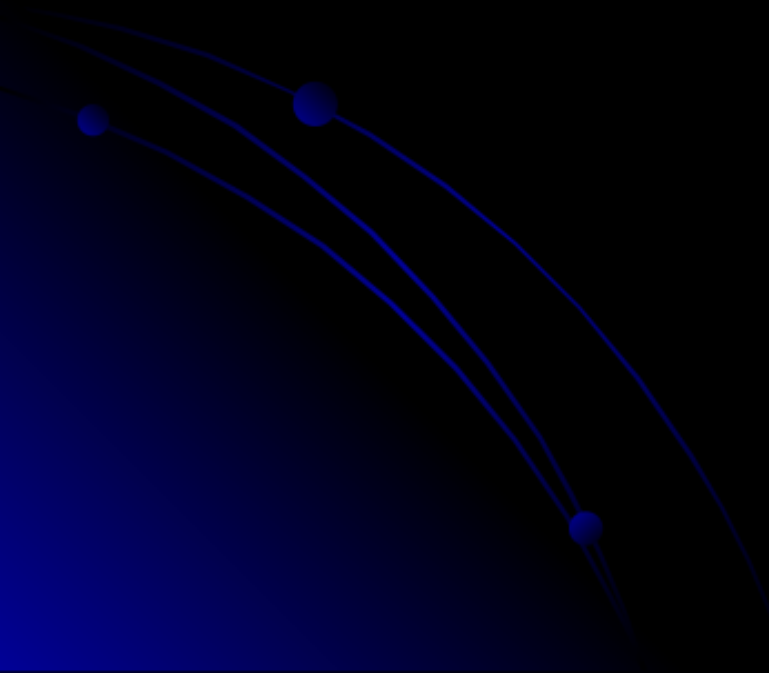
Lambeth 2008 & Beyond

- 2007 meeting in Spain



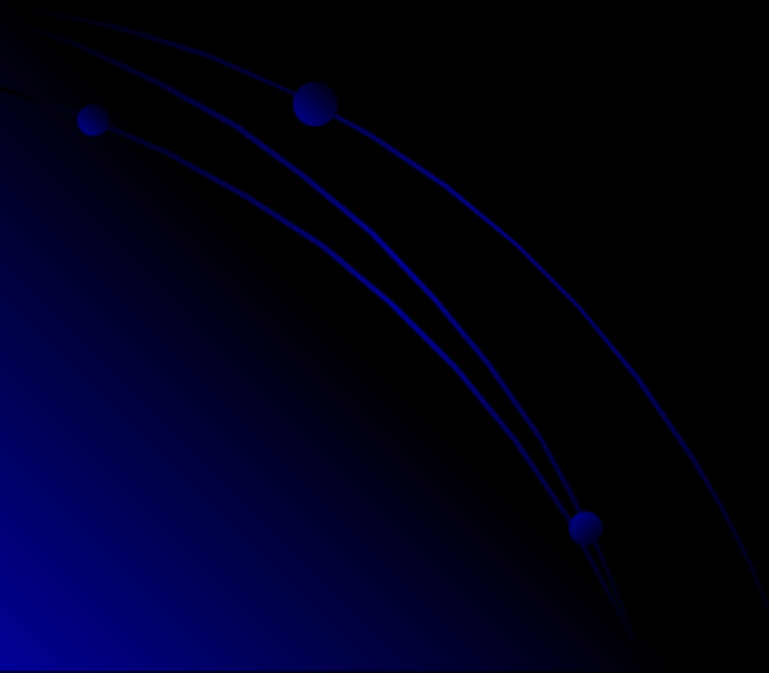
Lambeth 2008 & Beyond

- 2007 meeting in Spain
- Lambeth Indaba Process



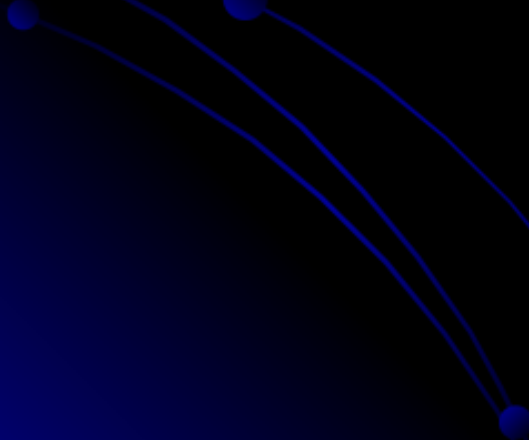
Lambeth 2008 & Beyond

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- 2007 meeting in Spain
- Lambeth Indaba Process
- Listening Process
- Pastoral Visitors
- Communion Partners
- The Anglican Covenant
- Standing Committee of the Ang Comm



The Gift of Anglicanism

“More and more, we make for ourselves a world of ‘us’ against ‘them.’ The remedy, if there is one, requires that we develop new habits. Instead of conspiring with the like-minded, we need to spend more time learning from those we consider wrongheaded.”

The Hon. Madeline Albright
Former US Sec of State
and Episcopalian



The Rev. Canon
C K Robertson, PhD