

Viewpoint: What it means to me to be Anglican

**Patty Brooke**

My thoughts return to my very first National ECW Triennial Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, in 1997. As I entered my hotel and began to see the magnitude of people gathering, I was astounded – that the Church – could be as broad and beautiful as the colors in the rainbow.

As I made my way to the Convention Center and the first morning gathering and Holy Eucharist, sitting at table with my brothers and sisters from all over the world—again I was astonished at the faces I was seeing, meeting and getting to know. This was just a small microcosm of the larger Anglican Communion represented and I was just one small drop in the ocean of faithful people gathered in that place, at that time. Walking the halls between sessions, I was struck by the multitude of people again—all colors, all nationalities, different ages, men, women, and children, clergy and laity alike—each one part of the one Body. We were each different, and yet unified in and with the One.

This experience opened my eyes to the knowledge that being Anglican—lived through the tradition of the Episcopal Church USA—is no small thing. My faithful commitment as part of the community at St. David's Episcopal Church, San Antonio, Texas, in the Diocese of West Texas, as part of Province VII, and the national Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion is much larger than I can understand or even imagine. My experience and journey continues to be joyfully lived – knowing that I am connected as one small drop in that larger ocean of faithful people who make up the Body of the Risen Christ.

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