



So What?

Theology Statement

via media is a journey. Whether you started this journey at the beginning with the people gathered around you, joined somewhere along the way, or have just settled in today for the first time, you are a part of a long tradition of Anglicans doing and shaping theology. You're a part of a conversation that has been happening for a long, long time. The people around you, your friends, your neighbors, even those who you don't know well are your companions on the journey. Our Anglican point of view reminds us that we can each think theologically. So what?

What you contribute to the conversation is your experience and your active participation in a community of faith. As St. Paul reminds us, the Body of Christ needs all its members in order to function. Active participation through holy listening, through honest dialogue, through respectful communication is the gift that we give and receive in a healthy community of faith. So what?

We meet each other in community through the sacrament. Our baptism introduces us to our family community. Just like the love of family, and the abiding love of our Creator God, nothing we can do could ever take our baptism from us or invalidate the covenant into which we entered with God and one another. So what?

Meeting around the table is the other way in which Anglicans experience community. Like the bread, we are taken, blessed, broken, and given to the world as a sign of God's love for all of creation. So what?

Together, Baptism and Eucharist provide the framework for community: welcome and feast. Everything else that we experience as children of God, as neighbors living together, becomes the scrapbook of our life in community. Our sickness and our health, our joy and our pain. Times of prosperity and times of recession. The births and deaths, and the comings and goings. Even the conflicts within our community are part of our history of faith and family. Still we extend a radical welcome to all who seek God and meet at the table to celebrate. So what?

In this session you will hear examples of Episcopalians talking about what it means to be Christians in the 21st century. So what are we to do with all the questions that we've asked, and the answers we have found in community? What does all of our theology,

our Scripture, Traditions, and our Reason, bring us to think about the world around us and our role in the Kingdom of Heaven?

This session concludes with another ‘so what’ question. What does the Eucharist, that act of communion and community, have to do with our lives as 21st century Christians?

The questions don’t stop today and the conversation doesn’t end today, either. Participating in the *via media* reminds you that you have all the tools you need to continue conversations about God the Creator, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Sin, Hope, and our Anglican heritage. Everyone you meet is a companion on your journey and you inform each other about the world around you.

Welcome to the journey!

Continuing the Conversation

As you finish **via media** and think about how to apply it to your life and relationships, consider answering the following questions in your small groups. Don't feel put on the spot by these questions, but tackle them with honesty, relying on your community to help you answer them.

- If someone asks you what you believe about God, what is your answer?
- Why do you go to church?
- How do you keep your faith in a Good God when there is so much evil and death in the world?
- Why do YOU take the Eucharist?
- What has been your most memorable experience of the Eucharist?
- Have you ever had an experience where your politics and your spirituality clashed? How did you resolve it?
- Have you ever had an experience of being ashamed of your Christianity? Or a time when you haven't admitted being a Christian? What was that about? How did it feel?
- How are you able to get along with people in your church with whom you disagree on matters of politics or theology?
- What has been one of your most joyful moments in church?
- Are you the same person at church as you are when you are at home? At work? With friends?