

# Casting Lots? Thinking Biblically About Choosing Leaders

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## Full Disclosure...

### Bishops in the Bible?

- The Threefold Order?
  - Deacons - Rom 16:1; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:8-13
  - Priests - go-betweens, *not* church leaders
    - (OC priests - eg. Lk 1:5, Acts 6:7, Priesthood of all believers - eg. 1 Pt 2:9, Jesus the Great High Priest - eg. Heb 4:14)
  - Bishops - 'episcopoi' - pastor-teacher overseers of local churches - eg. 1 Tim 3:1-7
    - ie. In the NT, local churches have overseers / pastor-teachers and deacons - Phil 1:1, 1 Tim 3:1-13*
- Other formal / semi-formal / occasional ministry roles in the New Testament
  - Elders - eg. 1 Tim 5:17
  - Missionaries - eg. Acts 13:1-3
  - Prophets - self-identifying? / group testing - eg. Acts 21:10; 1 Cor 14:29-33
  - Evangelists - eg. Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5
  - Small 'd' deacons - eg. Acts 6:1-6
    - ie. A variety of different roles, determined by local needs and gifting - the permissive principle*
- Authority over the local church
  - The Jerusalem church, the Apostles, Titus?
  - The Moniscopate - Ignatius of Antioch (early 2<sup>nd</sup> C)
    - A post NT development, when there is more than one church gathering in a city
    - For theological unity and discipline
  - ie. Local churches have higher accountabilities and the Anglican Church follows an old tradition*

### What Does an Anglican Bishop Do?

- Hires and fires
- Keeps watch over the doctrine of the diocese as a whole
- Serves as the public face of the diocese
- Deals with our big corporate issues - eg. responses to sexual abuse, etc.
- Sets the tone, flavour and macro-direction of the diocese
- Moves money about
- And now - needs to help us navigate into post-Christendom

## Three Lessons from Titus (and 1 Timothy 3:1-13)

- Titus is a sort-of monepiscopos: has regional responsibility, appoints overseers, and maintains doctrine
- Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-13 give requirements for overseers which, presumably, should hold for Anglican bishops too!

### 1. Character comes first - eg. Titus 1:6-8; 2:11-14

- NB. Not tribe
- Rounded maturity as part of character

### 2. Ability to build a well-resourced and effective church - eg. Titus 1:5; 3:14

- Vision-casting is just step one of the process - anyone can come up with an inspirational idea
- Track record is important - eg. Titus 1:6b cf. 1 Tim 3:4, 12
  - The best indicator of future performance is past performance
- We need leaders who grow fruitfulness as well as faithfulness

### 3. Orthodox doctrine is absolutely not negotiable - eg. Titus 1:9-11; 2:1-15

- Someone who can 'work well with liberals' is actually inappropriate
- What they will promote and require of others is as important as their private beliefs
- Theological depth as well as theological position
- An able teacher / preacher - the rudder that steers the ship - eg. Titus 2:1

## Two Points on Politics

- Electing an Archbishop is one of the single most significant moments in life of the church
  - Set the course for 10-15 years
  - Few churches rise above their leaders
- Politics is unavoidable in an election
  - So be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves... not vice versa!

### 1. The right person is unlikely to be a middle-ground diplomat

- Inoffensive leaders tend to be ineffective leaders, and sometimes even compromised leaders
  - Someone liberals could vote for is unlikely to be someone who will champion biblical priorities
- Rather, look for someone who can unify all the evangelical and orthodox clergy of the diocese
- They will need to be an unashamed and informed Anglican
- Where will they stand on GAFCON?

### 2. Steel yourselves for a long journey

- Turn up and vote!
- A diocese in an extended period of administration is not really a problem

## Pray more than perfunctory prayers