

Loving the Questions
Marianne H. Micks
chapter 7
What is the Church?

We believe in
one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.

What did you learn from this chapter?

St. Mary's Church
Stone Harbor, New Jersey

We Welcome You to Join Us
For the Adult Forum and
Worship
All Year Long (well, almost)!

Sunday July 8, 2018



A few highlights of the subjects in this chapter:

World Council of Churches p.69

ecumenical organization founded in 1948 in Amsterdam as “a fellowship of Churches which accept Jesus Christ our Lord as God and Savior.” The WCC is not a church, nor does it issue orders or directions to the churches. It works for the unity and renewal of the Christian denominations and offers them a forum in which they may work together in the spirit of tolerance and mutual understanding.

COCU p.70

The Consultation on Church Union (COCU) was an effort towards church unity in the United States, that began in 1962. After forty years of talks, COCU voted (in 1999) to dissolve in 2002 and to reconstitute itself as Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC).

Church Uniting Characteristics p.70

1) celebrating God's grace; 2) Ongoing mission of salvation; 3) Apostolic and priestly ministry; 4) Mirroring diversity; 5) Appreciate traditions; 5) Strengthening ecumenical relations.

Denominational barriers vs. newer issues p. 71

Base communities in Latin America p. 72

A base community is a relatively autonomous Christian religious group that operates according to a particular model of community, worship, and study of the Bible. The concept of a base community is often associated with liberation theology.

Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral p. 72

is a four-point articulation of Anglican identity, often cited as encapsulating the fundamentals of the Anglican Communion's doctrine and as a reference point for ecumenical discussion with other Christian denominations. The four points are: The Holy Scriptures, as containing all things necessary to salvation; The creeds (specifically, the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds) as the sufficient statement of Christian faith; the dominical sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion; the historic episcopate, locally adapted.

Apostolic: “a sign, though not a guarantee” p.73

Holiness “no halo, but a call to walk in love” p. 74

Militant and triumphant p. 75

Richard Hooker's “supernatural society” pp 75-76

Koinonia p. 76

Koinonia is a Greek word that occurs 20 times in the Bible. *Koinonia*'s primary meaning is "fellowship, sharing in common, communion." The first occurrence of *koinonia* is Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Christian fellowship is a key aspect of the Christian life. Believers in Christ are to come together in love, faith, and encouragement. That is the essence of *koinonia*.

Walter Brueggemann "wildness exile" model pp. 77-78

If you were asked today to choose four adjectives to describe your concept of the church, without abandoning the four we have inherited, what would you choose? p. 77

There are church scholars who articulate how the church becomes the *body of Christ* through the narrative of Scripture and the practices of worship. They say as Jesus Christ has a distinctive character, so also the body of Christ has a distinctive character. This character is described through the four classical marks of the church — *one, holy, catholic, apostolic*. There are those who say, of course, the church cannot be the body of Christ! There are too many glaring flaws and contradictions for that to be the case. What do you say?

Personal opinion and question: As things stand today, we are never going to reach the declared goal of visible church unity here on earth - and perhaps we should stop trying to do so, because it focuses our efforts outwards rather than inwards. We ourselves do not need to establish that unity, indeed we cannot do so, for it belongs to God. Do you think we can believe in unity and also accept church differences?



What's happening at Convention?



July 15	Bishop's visit...no Adult Forum
July 22	"What is Baptism?" chapter 8
July 29	"What is Our future?" chapter 9
August 5	"What difference does it make?" chapter 10 what's our next topic ?