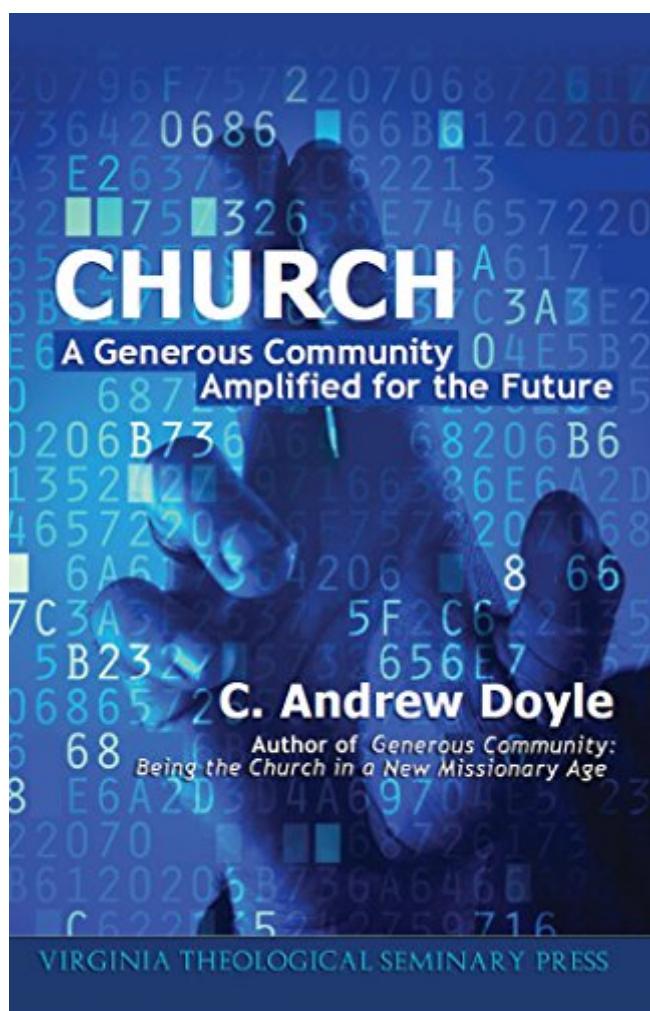


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# Church: A Generous Community Amplified For The Future



## **Synopsis**

Church casts a vision of the Church with clarity and hope, life-giving principles that will guide the future Church, a significant navigational tool for anyone who stand at the helm of a Christian community. In a world of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, Church is one of the most hopeful, realistic, enthusiastic, positive, informed, and empowering assessments to date of where we are today as Christians and as the Episcopal Church and how we are step into our future.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Andy, I just finished reading your book, Church. I loved it! I liked your thoughts on the future church being seen as a church in Diaspora in a Post-Modern, Post Enlightenment Age. I enjoyed walking with you through the history of the Church looking at formation, orders, and structure among other things. Your thoughts on evangelism were exciting. I appreciated your weaving in your reading in the new physics and how it is impacting our thinking and living. Thanks for a great contribution to

the conversations going on in and out of the Church. As a digital-migrant, I felt lost in all that you talked about with regard to the world of communication today. I am inspired and refreshed from reading your book. I ordered a copy to be sent to my son, Steve, Pastor at South Main Baptist Church of Houston. The Rev. Bob Wells, Episcopal priest, retired.

The argument for change in 'Church' does not seem to come from any fear of the future, but from a profound love for the young people that will own it. These young people are the "digital natives" that are, even now, passing through the waters of our baptismal fonts (or not). While I am a "digital migrant," I recognized many of my own traits in Doyle's descriptions of today's cultural landscape. For instance, I've spent some of my ministry bi-vocationally, (373) and I'm currently involved in a crowd-funded film project (197). If you wonder, like I often do, what bishops are thinking, buy this book. You will see in it the thought processes of a leader that IS actively leading a large diocese Right Now. Most books about church and change come from consultants that USED to work in a church. Bishop Doyle's ideas are rooted in his arguments from history and current scientific and philosophical thought. This book is deep, and I know it will take me considerable time to process what it means for me in my context as a priest in the Church. The book is honest and candid about the challenges involved in Church leadership. The Epilogue alone models how books can function as conversation generators. I found that material to be unexpectedly revelatory. It is inspirational and encouraging, pointing always to the work of the Holy Spirit that moves us, all of us, into the mission of God.

Bishop Doyle presents a grand vision of the future of the Episcopal Church. The Church will be dynamic, diverse and focused on its mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. And this mission, coupled with Doyle's vision, is good news indeed. The Church's body will be focussed on our Baptismal vows to follow Jesus as Lord and seek to serve our neighbors by loving them as ourselves. Bishop Doyle acknowledges the current state of The Episcopal Church (and all "mainline" denominations), but his message is hopeful in the face of our secular age. He describes the changes that the Church must undergo to meet today's needs and yet remain what is: Anglican in worship and faithful in tradition, without becoming bound to "traditionalism". Bravo, Bishop! Disclosure: I am a lifelong Episcopalian, and spent 10 years in the Diocese of Texas.

Good and deep background for those who are seeking to understand the changing challenge of Christ to "go into all the world."

I wish it was brock down in real life terms all most all of the words you don't know what they mean if mr doyle would write a book that all people could read and under stand then he may lead more people to the church but with this book I don't think that is going to happen for the every day person

This is a wonderful book and deserves to be read by all! Bishop Doyle seamlessly weaves together the past, present and future church and in reading I was able to see how the present church has emerged from church history. I also love that Doyle draws from a vast array of academic disciplines — theology, science, sociology, psychology, and even economics. That's no small feat! It adds a real meatiness to the book. I deeply appreciate its rootedness in systems thinking as well. We are so used to wearing our organization as machine• lens we forget that it is precisely that: a lens, and not a particularly useful lens either. In this book Doyle's passion comes through on every page. He yearns for God's people to self-learn and self-organize, to stop controlling and to trust God. He says that we who walk in the garden with God can bring something new into being. He says that the very thing we so often fear — chaos — is not something to control and manage but rather the very stuff out of which God longs to create a new and wonderful order. After reading, I was left with the impression that the Episcopal Church's goal is not merely to survive the VUCA world, but rather to thrive in the VUCA world — to become a better, stronger, and more adaptive organization as a result of all the VUCA — ness that is here to stay. This is an important book for the church and is worthy of being read, marked and inwardly digested by all!

Bishop Doyle writes with clarity and conviction about the Church that was, is, and can be. This is a great book for any priest, pastor, seminarian, or lay leader who wants to help see God's mission enacted through the local and global Church.

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