

body. The legal theory of the Church, as comprising all baptized persons within the realm, still remains, and constitutes the Church of England the residuary legatee of whatever is not claimed as their own by other religious bodies.

Convocation has become ineffective for two reasons. In the first place, it is an exclusively clerical body. If the Church had offered to support the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts in return for the right to a representative assembly of its own, many difficulties of after-times would have been avoided. But, besides its exclusively clerical character, Convocation was weakened by constant quarrels between the Upper House, composed for the most part of Whig bishops, and the Lower House, which was strongly Tory. Finally, in 1717, Convocation was prorogued, and was not summoned to meet again till 1861.

The description "established by law" was first applied to the Church of England in a canon of 1604, but did not come into general use till after the Revolution, when some title was needed to distinguish between the National Church and other religious bodies. It implies that, in return for certain services done by the Church for the nation, the State gives to it recognition and protection. It is important to distinguish the special relations included in this term from the general authority that the State exercises over all religious bodies holding property. Any religious body desiring to make any fundamentally important change in its doctrine or method of organization would, in the present condition of the law, require the sanction of the State, given through Parliament, unless it has no buildings or other property. A disestablished church could only free itself from this measure of State control by divesting itself

"Establishment."