



September 15, 2009

The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge
Diocese of West Texas
111 Torcido Place
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Dear Bishop Lillibridge:

The vestry of Christ Church San Antonio thanks you for your attendance at our last meeting on August 18, and for your responsiveness to the questions and concerns that were expressed about TEC's recent General Convention. Some of the comments were tough and very pointed, but you handled them graciously and stayed late to visit one-on-one with those who wished further discussion. We trust the tone and substance of the questions leaves no doubt as to where the majority of our congregation stands on important matters of the Christian faith.

We have sought to respond gracefully, prayerfully, and strongly to the challenges presented by The Episcopal Church. Each time we have reaffirmed our commitment to the Anglican and Episcopal heritage that holds to the Bible as its highest authority, while disassociating from the actions of the national church. We have stated our difference with The Episcopal Church on matters of human sexuality, but in every case our larger concern was what we saw as an attack on the authority of Holy Scripture, and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the Way to salvation.

What is being threatened is the Christian gospel itself. Is the gospel a solution for sin that requires repentance, forgiveness, and amendment of life, or is it therapy that blesses and affirms sinners in their sin? It is clear that there are two entirely different religions trying to exist under the name "Episcopal." Our hope that the pendulum will eventually swing back to a more moderate church no longer seems to be realistic. Sadly, The Episcopal Church today is nothing like The Episcopal Church many of us grew up with. What were once sacred beliefs – the Trinity, the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, scriptural authority – are no longer sacred in many quarters of the church. The contentiousness within The Episcopal Church has compromised our witness as "Episcopalians" and hurt our ability to reach those who seek a personal and passionate relationship with God through his Son.

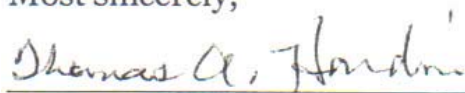
Regarding your offer to help us in our ministry in whatever way you can, we request that you take the following items to the Standing Committee and Executive Board for their consideration and approval, with concurrence by you and Bishop Reed. For you personally to take positive action on the following would be much welcomed at Christ

Church as it would affirm our ministry and focus, as well as where you stand on the issues at hand. We believe that such approvals would also help the DWTX as a whole in differentiating itself from the radical actions taken by TEC and its national leadership that have strained and/or broken ties between provinces within the Anglican Communion. We request you and the diocesan leadership in a timely fashion – that is, within sixty (60) days – do the following:

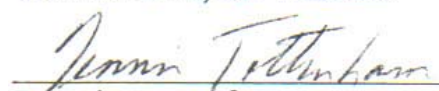
- Endorse and formally approve the Anglican Covenant (Ridley-Cambridge Draft No. 3, specifically including Section 4), as presented to the Anglican Consultative Council last May in Jamaica).
- Disassociate the DWTX from the Presiding Bishop’s remarks on her “western heresy” comments at General Convention 2009, and affirm that it is the Diocese’s desire that all persons would come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ.
- Add the following wording (or something similar) to the accession clause in Article I, Section 1 of the DWTX Constitution and Canons: “. . . so long as such mandates and actions are not in conflict with the Anglican Formularies or cause impaired relationships with other provinces of the Anglican Communion.”
- Publicly affirm that the Diocese of West Texas is in union with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ directly through the Anglican Communion, its Instruments of Unity, and our Diocesan Bishop. Include the Archbishop of Canterbury’s statement on October 14, 2007 to Bishop John W. Howe of the Diocese of Central Florida that “The organ of union with the wider Church is the Bishop and the Diocese rather than the Provincial structure as such.”
- Publicly affirm that Resolution D-025 and C-056 passed at General Convention 2009 are incompatible with scripture and inconsistent with traditional Anglican teaching and worship, and will not be honored or followed in the DWTX.

Last October Christ Church’s vestry worked with you in adopting a position which stated, in part, that we “disassociate from TEC’s false teachings without disconnecting from the Anglican Communion and the Diocese of West Texas.” We request that our diocesan leadership now take action “to disassociate the DWTX from those actions of TEC that are not acceptable to the wider communion and do not conform to the faith once delivered, without disconnecting from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion.


Most sincerely,



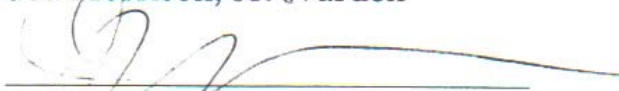
Tom Hardin, Sr. Warden



Dennis Tottenham, Vestry Clerk



Jed Morrison, Jr. Warden



John Harrison, Vestry Treasurer



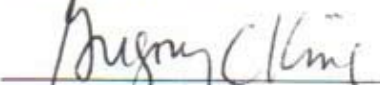
Rick Archer



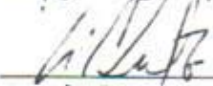
Carol Carr



Frances Harrison




Greg King



Annie Lutz



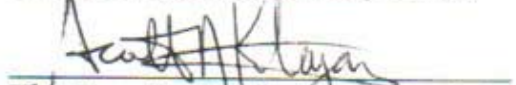
Jacque Roberts



Scott Rose



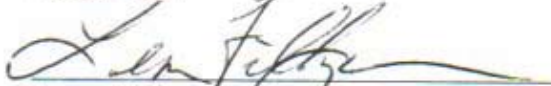
The Rev. Chuck Collins, Rector



The Rev. Scott Kitayama, Assistant Rector



Scott Barr



Leon Fillyaw

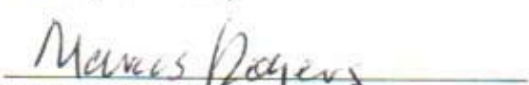


Allison Hayne

Michael Kiolbassa



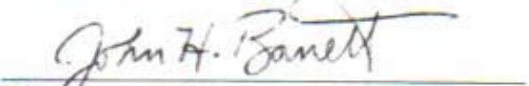
Sherry O'Kelley



Mareus Rogers



Rollins Rubsamen



The Rev. John Barrett, Assistant Rector