



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, D.D., *Bishop of Fort Worth*

October 26, 2007

Elinor Normand, Senior Warden
Trinity Episcopal Church
3401 Bellaire Drive South
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Dear Elinor,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the most recent statement issued by the vestry of your parish on October 19, 2007. It is consistent with the position you have stated and conveyed to me on previous occasions. Likewise, my own stated position remains the same: I cannot force anyone to leave the Episcopal Church, nor can I force anyone to remain in the Episcopal Church. As I have said on numerous occasions, if the Diocese separates from the Episcopal Church, I am committed to finding a way for parishes that wish to do so, to remain in the Episcopal Church, with their property. The whole purpose of the proposed amendments to Canon 32 is to provide a canonical process whereby this can be provided without resorting to litigation.

I want to assure all of you at Trinity Church that I will work with the parish toward this end, in the event that the Diocese makes a final decision for separation from TEC by vote of our Diocesan Convention in 2008 and the parish chooses to remain in TEC.

I affirm the value that you place upon respecting and honoring theological diversity in our church. However, it appears that increasingly that respect for diversity is being extended only to those on the revisionist side and that canons are being used to eliminate those of us who maintain the traditionalist side. This requires those of us who feel marginalized to take actions to secure a future for our beliefs and practices to be continued.

If a separation must occur, nothing would delight me more than to have Trinity Church choose to remain a faithful parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and thus assure our continuing diversity as a diocese. Be assured of my continuing love and prayers for all of you during these difficult times, and thank you for your ongoing prayers for me as your Bishop.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jack Leo Iker
Bishop of Fort Worth

Cc: Fr. Fred Barber