

## Where Trinity Episcopal Church's Vestry Stands

We, the members of the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, want to make clear to the parish where we stand at this time regarding the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and The Episcopal Church.

We are aware that there is essential disagreement between The Episcopal Church and our diocese and how the two are joined. Leadership in The Episcopal Church has clearly stated that individuals (including bishops, priests, deacons and parishioners) may choose to leave The Episcopal Church, but the diocese itself, being an entity created by the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, cannot leave The Episcopal Church. On the other hand, actions by our Bishop and the Standing Committee clearly presuppose a church where not only individuals but parishes, and entire dioceses can withdraw without the consent of The Episcopal Church. Time, and perhaps the secular courts, will tell which of these positions proves to be correct. It is our hope and desire that Trinity Episcopal Church remain a parish of both The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

We pray that our diocesan leadership will reconcile with and remain within The Episcopal Church. However, in response to any attempt by diocesan leaders or the diocesan convention to remove the diocese (and thus Trinity) from The Episcopal Church, the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church will work diligently to keep our parish in The Episcopal Church. To do so, we will work with our Bishop, the diocesan Standing Committee, individual members and parishes that want to remain in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, as well as working with the Presiding Bishop and other leaders in The Episcopal Church, to restore our parish and diocese to institutional and spiritual health as a part of The Episcopal Church.

We recognize that there are differing theological and canonical views among the faithful members of this parish. We recognize that there are positions taken by The Episcopal Church that are incompatible with views held among some of the faithful members of this parish. Despite these differences, we honor, respect, and value the Anglican tradition of diversity and compromise at Trinity. Further, we consider that theological diversity to be one of the greatest strengths of authentic Anglicanism.

It is our intention that Trinity Episcopal Church remain a faithful and loving community in which we worship and work together as we discuss our beliefs and concerns without rancor. We pray that such an example will remind others of the reconciling power of Jesus Christ and will help our entire diocese through the difficult times that lie ahead. Please continue to keep our parish, our diocese, our church, and their leaders, in your prayers.

The Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church  
Fort Worth, TX

October 19, 2007