

RESOLUTION FORM

NO: 5 – Revised

RESOLUTION: Presented to the Twenty-seventh Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fort Worth

Right Reverend Sir: We present the following resolution: **Anglican-Roman Catholic Ecumenical Relations**

WHEREAS the Roman Catholic Church has responded graciously to requests that have been submitted to the Holy See from various groups of Anglicans worldwide who wish to enter into full visible communion, and

WHEREAS our Lord Jesus Christ, in his high-priestly prayer at the Last Supper, prayed for his disciples that “they all might be one,” and

WHEREAS a commission appointed by The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker devoted to Anglican-Roman Catholic relations was formed in September 2009, consisting of clergy from this diocese and clergy representing the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth along with The Most Rev. Kevin Vann, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, to study closer relationships between our two churches, and

WHEREAS on the 20th of October 2009 we received the news that the Holy See has very graciously offered an Apostolic Constitution to those desiring to avail themselves of this historic opportunity, and

WHEREAS the details of this Constitution are not yet published, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the 27th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth commends this historic announcement to the people and clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth for prayerful reflection and response in the months ahead, and be it further

RESOLVED that the 27th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth commends the Response of The Rt. Rev. Jack Leo Iker of October 20, 2009, concerning the Vatican announcement of “personal ordinariates” for Anglicans, and be it further

RESOLVED that the 27th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth express deep gratitude and appreciation to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for showing this willingness to achieve full communion with Anglicans, and to The Most Rev. Kevin Vann, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, for his extraordinary warmth and friendship toward The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker and the people and clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, and be it further

RESOLVED that we move forward to “work and pray together for the unity of Christ’s holy catholic church throughout the world.”

Explanation: During the papacy of Pope Paul VI, The Roman Catholic Church expressed its sincere desire to engage in ecumenical dialogue with different Christian denominations to achieve greater unity. In this spirit of ecumenism, Pope Paul VI developed a close relationship with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, that resulted in a gesture of mutual respect in which Pope Paul VI presented his episcopal ring from his time as Archbishop of Milan to Archbishop Ramsey. Archbishop Ramsey affectionately called this ring “our engagement ring.” Shortly after this event, ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission) was formed to better achieve greater ecumenical understanding and reconciliation between the two churches.

On October 20, 2009, the Vatican announced that “the Holy Father has introduced a canonical structure that provides for such corporate reunion by establishing Personal Ordinariates, which will allow former Anglicans to enter full communion with the Catholic Church while preserving elements of the distinctive Anglican spiritual and liturgical patrimony. Under the terms of the Apostolic Constitution, pastoral oversight and guidance will be provided for groups of former Anglicans through a Personal Ordinate, whose Ordinary will usually be appointed from among former Anglican clergy.” These new structures are an outflow of the ecumenical efforts of the Second Vatican Council which referred to Anglicans as “those in

which Catholic traditions and institutions in part continue to exist.” We should rejoice in this historic and unprecedented development and see it as an effort of the Holy See to unite His one holy catholic and apostolic church.

DATE: November 2, 2009

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Jeffrey Stubbs
(Print Name)

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The Rev. Jeffrey Stubbs

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SECONDED BY: The Rev. David Klein
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The Rev. David Klein

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