



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

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

### **THE BISHOP'S ORDER UNDER CANON 32.5 CONCERNING A CONTROVERSY BETWEEN A PARISH AND THE DIOCESE**

**February 2, 2009**

*Canon 32.5 After all hearings as may be called for in Sections 32.2 through 32.4 above are concluded, the Bishop, after consultation with the Standing Committee, shall make such an order in regard to the matter as he may think to be just and for the best interest of the Church. It shall be the duty of the Diocese, the Rector and the Parish, and every member thereof, to submit to and abide by such order as the final and conclusive determination of all matters of difference between them.*

A conflict exists between the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Stephenville, arising out of the stated intention of the Vestry and Rector that the parish seeks to remain in union with the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, notwithstanding the actions by the 26th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

I have determined that a significant majority of the members of the parish is in agreement with the Rector and a majority of the Vestry in this matter.

It is my order, therefore, under Canon 32.5, that the relationship between this diocese and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Stephenville, is hereby dissolved. It is no longer in union with the Convention of this diocese and is released from its obligations as a member congregation.

The property of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Stephenville, is currently encumbered by a Deed of Trust that prohibits the transfer of the property. If the Vestry and Rector of the parish resolve this encumbrance and remove the obligation of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth to the note obligation, then the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth shall take such actions as are necessary to transfer title to all real estate of this congregation to the Rector and Wardens of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Stephenville.

Given under my seal and signature on this 2nd day of February, 2009 A.D., and in the sixteenth year of my episcopate.



+ *Jack L. Iker*  
The Rt. Rev. Jack Leo Iker  
Bishop of Fort Worth