



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

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THE RT. REV. JACK. LEO IKER, *Bishop*

Feb. 5, 2009

For immediate release

DIocese RELEASES FOUR PARISHES

FORT WORTH, Texas – In a hearing Monday, Feb. 2, the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth took action under diocesan Canon 32 to release the property and assets of four parishes from the Corporation of the diocese. The rectors and elected wardens of the four parishes were notified of the hearing and invited to attend.

The property of Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Southlake, has been transferred into the name of the Rectors and Wardens of those parishes, respectively. The property of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Stephenville, will be transferred upon removal of financial encumbrances in the form of building loans currently in the name of the Corporation.

As required by Canon 32, the Bishop's Orders were issued upon determination that the Vestry and Rector in each of the four parishes has expressed an intention to remain in union with the General Convention of The Episcopal Church (USA), and that significant majorities of the congregations are in support of that intention. "It is my order, therefore," the Rt. Rev. Jack Leo Iker wrote to each, "that the relationship between this diocese" and each of these churches "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."

In a cover letter, Bishop Iker concluded, "Please know of my continued prayers and best wishes to you and all the other people at [these churches] in the years ahead." The letters and Bishop's Orders were delivered by mail this week.

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth was organized in 1982. It is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion and the Province of the Southern Cone. The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker has served as the third diocesan Bishop of Fort Worth since 1995. The diocese enjoys companion relationships with the Dioceses of Northern Malawi and Northern Mexico.

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