

**The Episcopal Church in North Texas
Special Convention
Saturday, June 18, 2022**

RESOLUTION RE REUNION WITH THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

Whereas, the diocese now known as The Episcopal Church in North Texas (“ECNTX”) was originally part of the territory comprising the Episcopal Diocese of Texas (“EDOT”); and

Whereas, the Episcopal Church in North Texas and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, acting through their respective Bishops, diocesan staff and diocesan leaders, have had considerable discussion concerning the possible reunion of ECNTX with EDOT; and

Whereas, the people of the Episcopal Church in North Texas, having been deeply impacted by the departure of many of their congregations in 2008, desire to reunite with and become a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas; and

Whereas, the Bishop Provisional and the Standing Committee of ECNTX, on behalf of this Diocese, have entered into an Agreement of Reunion with EDOT, represented by their Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee, subject to the approval of this Special Convention and the Council of EDOT, said Agreement being attached hereto as Exhibit A;

Now Therefore be it Resolved, that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Church in North Texas hereby approves the Agreement of Reunion attached hereto and affirms its desire to reunite with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas pursuant to said Agreement and Canon I.10.6 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church; and

Be it Further Resolved, that this Special Convention directs the Bishop and the Standing Committee of this Diocese, working with the Bishop Diocesan and Standing Committee of EDOT, to complete the necessary steps under the Agreement and Canon I.10.6 to reunite the Episcopal Church in North Texas with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, including seeking the approval of a majority of the House of Bishops and of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church, and to take all other steps reasonably necessary and appropriate under the Agreement and the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese to implement the reunion.

SUBMITTED BY: The Standing Committee and Bishop Provisional J. Scott Mayer

EXPLANATION: (by the submitters)

You are being asked to approve the reunion of the Episcopal Church in North

Texas with and into the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

When The Episcopal Diocese of Texas (EDOT) was created in 1849, its territory included the entire state. Over time, as the population of the state grew, EDOT ceded parts of its territory to create new dioceses. For example, it ceded the north central part of the state to create the Diocese of Dallas. In 1982, the Diocese of Dallas ceded its western 24 counties to create the Diocese of Fort Worth.

In 2008, the Diocese of Fort Worth was torn apart when, led by a former bishop, the diocese and many of its congregations left the Episcopal Church and joined the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). In response, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori convened a convention at which the congregations who wished to remain in the Episcopal Church as the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth elected a Bishop Provisional and populated the other diocesan bodies. Lengthy litigation between the two groups ensued over the issue of which group owned the name of “Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth” and the property of the diocese and its parishes. In 2020 the Texas Supreme Court ruled in favor of the ACNA group and awarded them the name and title to almost all of the diocesan and parish properties. When the Supreme Court of the United States declined to hear our appeal, the decision of the Texas Supreme Court went into effect.

As a result, the diocese that remained in The Episcopal Church was renamed “The Episcopal Church in North Texas” (ECNTX). In its 24 north Texas counties are 13 congregations, many of which have found new places to worship. The diocese remains headquartered in Fort Worth, and its Bishop Provisional is the Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Texas.

After the conclusion of the litigation, Bishop Mayer convened a group of clergy and lay leaders to identify and evaluate options for the future of ECNTX. This discernment group eventually recommended to the Standing Committee that ECNTX reunite with and become a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

This process has resulted in the attached Agreement of Reunion, which has been approved by the Bishops and Standing Committees of both dioceses. It must now be approved by this Special Convention of ECNTX. It will be/has been approved by the Council of EDOT. Following the approval of this Special Convention, the Agreement of Reunion must then be approved by a majority of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church, whereupon the reunion will be complete under Canon I.10.6 of The Episcopal Church.

As set forth in the Agreement of Reunion, ECNTX will cease to exist, and its missions and parishes will become missions and parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, called the Fort Worth Convocation. Its clergy will likewise become clergy of EDOT.

A regional office of EDOT will be established in Fort Worth to serve the new North Texas Region. For a transition period, Provisional Bishop Mayer will serve the Northern Region as Bishop Assistant.

We are excited about the prospect of reunifying with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Together we have a great opportunity for evangelism and service in the Episcopal tradition in the north central Texas.