

Dear Bishop Mayer,

I had the great pleasure of meeting Communications Director Katie Sherrod back in 2012 as we attended the celebratory return of the Episcopal congregation to St. Stephen's, Heathsville, VA. Later, in 2015, our two dioceses sat together at the General Convention in Salt Lake City. What a glorious time that was, too. I've been in awe ever since at the amazing energy and enthusiasm for ministry that you all in Ft. Worth demonstrate every day!

Now, we find ourselves in a very different situation, and I want all of you in the Episcopal Diocese of Ft. Worth to know that Good Shepherd, San Angelo, stands with you in solidarity and great sadness in the wake of this ruling against the Episcopalians. We are proud of your faithful testimony to God's grace in the midst of this latest turmoil, even in the midst of dealing with the COVID-19 threat. Although we might not be able to see the future clearly, we trust that God does, and we pray that God will continue to uphold and lift you as you faithfully proclaim the Good News of Christ. We love you all dearly and hold all of you close in our hearts.

God's peace,
Celia+

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"Grant us, O Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us..." (Prayer from "Order for Evening" in Book of Common Prayer, p. 110)