Dear Diocesan Leaders:

I’m writing on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee first and foremost to thank those of you who have taken the time to review the first draft of revised canons and to respond to some of the changes we’re thinking about. If you have not yet done so, there’s still time. Just [click on this link](http://episcopaldiocesefortworth.org/give-your-feedback-on-proposed-canon-changes/) and follow the instructions.

Second, I’m writing to invite you to a forum, to be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth on July 16 at 6:30 p.m. At that forum we will have an opportunity to further discuss the changes, to explain our reasoning behind some of them, and to explore ways to adjust some of those changes that are not being met with much enthusiasm.

Last Saturday the Constitution and Canons Committee met and reviewed the eighteen responses we’ve received so far. It is most obvious that we need to do further work in Title IV where the definitions of parishes and missions are found. To that end, we participated in a teleconference Friday morning with Bishop Scott Mayer, who was kind enough to give us 45 minutes in the middle of his busy schedule at General Convention. We had an opportunity to discuss with him how they handle the same issues in the Diocese of Northwest Texas. Bishop Mayer will be with us at the forum on the 16th, and I’m sure he will share more information with us at that time.

Finally, I want to assure you that the version of the canons that is currently being discussed is absolutely not the final version. Once we’ve received your input at the forum, we will make revisions where appropriate, post a new version and ask you to take another look. We will also visit each of the deaneries during their August meetings, in essence five mini-forums, to hear further comments on the revised version. The deadline for the next round of responses is August 27.

Thank you again for helping us with your valuable input.

See you on the 16th!

Sincerely,

Elinor Normand  
Convener, Constitution and Canons Rewrite Subcommittee