

PROCLAMATION  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HILLSBORO, TEXAS

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Episcopal Church was founded in 1872, when Sara Margaret Sturgis first started a Sunday School and church services in her front parlor; and

WHEREAS, G.D. Tarleton, a church member and lay reader, purchased property for the first church building in 1883, Bishop Alexander Charles Garrett laid the cornerstone in 1886, services began there in 1887, a tornado destroyed that building in 1894, and a child named Tarleton Morrow rescued the altar cross from the rubble; and

WHEREAS, the church held services in a temporary building beginning in 1895, Bishop Garrett laid the cornerstone for a new brick Gothic Revival church building 1910, and the building was completed in 1911; and

WHEREAS, the sons of Dr. Frank McDonald, Senior Warden of St. Mary's from 1910-1930, donated the house north of the church as a parish hall and vicarage; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Episcopal Church has always been small but faithful, relying on lay leadership to found and establish the church while being served by traveling supply priests and, for a period, priests in residence or vicars; and in its history only two vicars, the Reverend Walter Meyers and the Reverend Wentworth A. Reiman, ministered to the congregation for longer than four years; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth fractured and a group left the Episcopal Church and sought to take the church properties with them, St. Mary's congregation was divided but for twelve years cooperated and shared the building, in 2021 the Texas Supreme Court awarded the church building to those who had left the Episcopal Church, and the laypeople of the congregation once again found temporary worship space and purchased property in preparation for a new permanent home; and

WHEREAS, through all these changes St. Mary's Episcopal Church remains faithful, loving and resolved to be Christ's voice, hands, and feet in the world today;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andrew L. Smith, Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, Texas, do hereby designate and declare Saturday, March 26, 2022 as:

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Day

I hereby affix my signature this the 26th day of March, 2022.

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Andrew L. Smith, Mayor, City of Hillsboro, Texas

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