



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF

FORT WORTH



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Grace and peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ from the Standing Committee to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. As we near the end of our journey through this season of Epiphany, we keep every church of the diocese in our thoughts and prayers.

As we all have been listening to conversations around deanery meetings, diocesan convention, and our own churches, we have heard a great amount of anxiety expressed concerning the calling of a new Bishop of Fort Worth. There is anxiety-about the financial strain of electing a full-time bishop. There is anxiety about the stress of having another temporary provisional bishop. We have heard these anxieties expressed in many different official meetings and casual gatherings.

As a Standing Committee, in consultation with the Right Reverend Rayford B. High, Jr., we are convinced that the election of a bishop at this time is not in our best interest as a diocese still in transition and made up of fifteen churches. We are also convinced that we need a longer-term option to fulfill the role of Provisional Bishop in Fort Worth. To that end, we are evaluating different models of ministry for the episcopacy. We feel encouraged by the TREC report from the Reimagining the Episcopal Church working group. We are excited about the different options being weighed to secure Episcopal oversight for the next several years.

We do not yet know exactly what the end result will be. However, please be assured that our end goal is to secure oversight that will be consistent at least through the conclusion of the lawsuit and all subsequent actions pertaining to that. We are concerned with maintaining the integrity and independence of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. We are convinced that further exploration of our options will prove to be better long-term stewardship of the resources of our diocese without sacrificing the care we feel is needed from a bishop. Our goal is also to relax the financial constraints we all feel when the budget under discussion factors in the election of a diocesan bishop. By relaxing those constraints, we are hopeful that we may focus more on the ministry of the church and the communities that surround us.

Please know that we are praying, working, and deliberating with the very best intentions and dreams for the diocese. We ask for your prayers as we discern the ways in which God is calling our diocese now.

Peace and Blessings,

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth