THE RIGHT REVEREND RAYFORD B. HIGH, JR., PROVISIONAL BISHOP 4301 MEADOWBROOK DRIVE · FORT WORTH, TX 76103 · 817.534.1900

Eastertide 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to providing a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment in which all God's people can carry out the work God has given us to do. This means insuring an environment free of abuse, exploitation, and harassment.

Sexual misconduct on the part of any clergyperson, employee, or volunteer of any congregation, institution, organization, school, or agency within the diocese violates the mission of the Church, is prohibited, and will not be tolerated.

Safe Church Training is a certification program for clergy, employees of the bishop's office, Licensed Eucharistic Visitors, Lay Chaplains, and those who regularly volunteer in congregational and diocesan programs for children and youth. I also recommend this training for vestry members and lay people in leadership positions.

This program is grounded in our Baptismal promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.

As your bishop, I am calling upon all those affected by the policy to read, mark, learn, inwardly digest, and adhere to it in full. Training will be offered and publicized throughout our diocese and it will occur on a regular basis. Thank you for your participation in this process.

Faithfully in Christ

Rayford B. High, Jr.