



An Open Letter to Episcopalians in the Diocese of South Carolina



November 2012

Fellow Episcopalians,

We write to assure you that The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina is continuing. While we watch with great sadness the efforts by some to separate from The Episcopal Church, our Diocese is reorganizing with renewed dedication to carry forward the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, just as prior generations have done since 1789. We have much to do and many challenges to meet, but we are confident that by moving forward together in unity and faith, with God's help, we will flourish.

A steering committee of faithful Episcopalians has been formed to reorganize our continuing Diocese over the next few months. This committee will serve as the broad-based group in the Diocese that communicates with the Presiding Bishop during this period when the Diocese has no functioning ecclesiastical authority.

At our next Diocesan Convention, now set for March 8, 2013, delegates will begin the work of selecting a bishop, a new standing committee, and forging ahead with our missions and ministry.

Faithfully,

Members of the Steering Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

Hillery P. Douglas, Charleston, Chairman
Erin E. Bailey, Mount Pleasant, Secretary
The Rev. James E. Taylor, North Charleston,
Treasurer
Holly H. Behre, Charleston
William P. Baldwin, McClellanville
Charles C. Geer, MD, Charleston
Lonnie Hamilton, III, Charleston
Margaret S. Kwist, Summerville

Your participation in this new ministry is encouraged. To receive all communications from the continuing Diocese of South Carolina, please email your contact information to episcopaldioceoseofsc@gmail.com. The Episcopal Church in South Carolina always welcomes you!

We are reminded of the powerful words of a beloved bishop of our diocese, the late William Alexander Guerry, which speak poignantly to us now in this time of our rebuilding:

"We should strive for unity, not uniformity. Uniformity is mechanical, barren, unfruitful, and unprofitable. Unity is organic, living, and capable of endless growth. If we are to be truly catholic, as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within its communion every living human soul."

We will continue to improve our lines of communication with you and, in the meantime, if you have questions about the future plans for the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina, or to volunteer to help the effort to reorganize, please visit our website, www.episcopaldioceoseofsc.org, email episcopaldioceoseofsc@gmail.com, or call (843) 259-2016.

The Rev. Richard C. Lindsey,
Hilton Head/Beaufort County
Rebecca S. Lovelace, Conway
The Rev. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, North Myrtle Beach
John O. Sands, Pawleys Island
The Rev. Calhoun Walpole, Charleston
Virginia C. Wilder, Summerville

Episcopal Advisors

Bishop John Clark Buchanan, Mount Pleasant
Bishop Charles vonRosenberg, Daniel Island