



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, D.D., *Bishop of Fort Worth*

January 8, 2009

The Most. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017-4503

Dear Katharine,

The Bishop and Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth object to your stated intention to celebrate the Eucharist and preach at two congregations of this Diocese on Feb. 7, 2009. Canon III.12.3.c of the Canons of General Convention states:

No Bishop shall perform Episcopal acts or officiate by preaching, ministering the Sacraments, or holding any public service in a Diocese other than that in which the Bishop is canonically resident, without permission or a license to perform occasional public services from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Bishop desires to officiate or perform Episcopal acts.

Neither the Bishop nor the duly elected members of the Standing Committee have issued such an invitation to you, and we now state our public objections to this proposed visit.

We write to urge you not to bring further discord into the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. Visiting a special convention with the expressed purpose of creating a rival diocese is an unprecedented and unwarranted invasion of, and meddling in, the internal affairs of this Diocese. You have no canonical authority to do what you propose to do. We ask you to reflect on how you responded to such a visit to your own Province from a fellow primate last year.

The actions contemplated by some people in Fort Worth are profoundly uncanonical, and they also prevent needed reconciliation talks from proceeding within this diocese. These individuals have made no use of the provisions of the Canons that would enable them to withdraw from the jurisdiction and relationship of the Diocese. They therefore remain under that constitution and canons. According to our diocesan constitution, special conventions can only be called by the Bishop and Standing Committee, and we have not called for such a meeting. We urge you to focus your pastoral ministry within your own Province. Please cease and desist from interfering in this matter.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker  
Bishop of Fort Worth

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Hightower  
President, Standing Committee

cc: The Archbishop of Canterbury  
The Primates of the Anglican Communion