

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church



October 5, 2009

(Name)
(Address)
(City, State, Zip)

Dear (Name):

It has now been a year since the 143rd Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. At the conclusion of that convention “letters of transfer” to the Province of the Southern Cone were issued to every member of the clergy. It is our understanding that some have understood themselves to have accepted these “transfers.”

However, those who have accepted this “transfer” are still considered by the Recorder of Ordinations to be a part of the Episcopal Church in the United States. We are seeking to remedy this in a way that does not involve deposition.

Consequently, we are seeking to release those clergy who so desire under the provisions of Canon III.9.8.

1. If you have registered for the Diocesan Convention in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh (TEC), filed an annual ministerial report with us in 2009 as non-parochial clergy, or requested a license from us because you are non-parochial, you need to do nothing. You will be retained in our records as clergy in the Diocese.
2. If you have done none of the above and wish to remain a member of the clergy in the Episcopal Church you need to notify us in writing no later than October 19, 2009.
3. If you have done none of the above and wish to be “released from the obligations of the Ministerial office [as a Priest or Deacon in the Episcopal Church] and deprived of the right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God’s Word and Sacraments conferred at Ordination [in the Episcopal Church]” and you do not instruct us to the contrary in writing, we will notify the Recorder of Ordinations to remove you from the list of clergy licensed to exercise ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. However, we prefer that you notify us in writing of your request for this release, or send us a copy of your “transfer” documentation for our records.

This does not affect your ordination, which you may register with whatever entity you choose. This is simply a way for us to gain clarity around the issue of who is licensed to practice ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Please know that this release can be reversed in the future if you so choose but that the Diocese of Pittsburgh hopes that all of you will decide to remain with us.

If you have any questions about this matter please contact the diocesan office in Monroeville.

Yours in Christ,

The Standing Committee
The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh (TEC)

The Rev. Dr. James Simons, President
The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker
The Rev. Jeffrey Murph
The Very Rev. George L. Werner
Ms. Celinda Scott
Mr. Lee Hicks
Ms. Mary Roehrich
Ms. Vera Quinn