



March 9, 2007

*Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop*

Dear Clergy and People of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas:

*“Be strong, all you people of the land,” declares the LORD, “and work. For I am with you,” declares the LORD Almighty. “This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear” (Haggai 2:4b-5).*

We, the members of the Standing Committee, write you with greetings of great encouragement following the meeting of the Primates of our Communion in February.

First, we wish to offer thanks to Almighty God for the work of the Primates in Tanzania. In difficult circumstances, they left their meeting without a deepened fracture in the Communion, without upheaval, and without diverting the course of the Anglican Communion from its calling as the Church of God.

We also wish to offer thanks to Almighty God for the unanimous communiqué offered to us by the Primates at the conclusion of their meeting. It truly represents a way forward for the Anglican Communion, and we believe, exhibits the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to breathe new life into what many thought was a hopeless situation.

Second, we wish to commend to all of you the Primates’ communiqué. It is important that every member of the Diocese of Dallas be at least familiar with this important document. This communiqué outlines a specific path for those who wish to remain within the Anglican Communion as well as remain faithful Episcopalians. This communiqué shows the working of Christ’s church at its finest.

The path outlined within the communiqué mirrors the one that the Diocese of Dallas has been walking for some time. In October 2004, the Diocesan Convention voted to join the Anglican Communion Network. In May 2005, a special Diocesan Convention voted nearly unanimously to receive fully the contents of the *Windsor Report* and agreed to live by its recommendations. In October 2006, the Diocesan Convention reaffirmed its support of the *Windsor Process*, and promised to be active participants in the Anglican Covenant process, which is now well underway.

Having met and conferred with our Bishop, we believe that the steps taken above place us squarely within the realm of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the full life of the Anglican Communion, and that the same steps cause us to look forward to the formation of the Primates’ Pastoral Council. We also see these steps as giving the Diocese of Dallas great hope in working closely with the Primatial Vicar, soon to be appointed.

While challenges remain, these developments are cause of much excitement, joy, and hope. With them in mind, we leave you with a word of encouragement from the Prophet Haggai, speaking at a time when the people of Israel felt defeated: *“Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.”*

As we have been blessed by the working of God through the Primates of the Anglican Communion, so now we must seek to bless others. Our mission has not changed and our job remains to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to convert souls, to make disciples, and to reach out with compassion to the hurting and at risk in our society for the Kingdom of God.

Therefore, we encourage you to be strong and not to fear, for truly the Spirit has directed his holy Church. In that strength and with no fear, let us seek to make disciples of all nations, for we believe in the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives. We are resurrection people!

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Dallas:

*The Very Rev. Kevin Martin*

*The Rev. Canon Edward R. Monk, Chair of the Standing Committee*

*The Rev. Clay Lein*

*Mr. Charles A. Hinton, Jr.*

*Mrs. Cheryl Wetzel*

*Mrs. Laura Allen*