

January 11, 2010

TO: The Diocese of West Texas

FROM: The Standing Committee of The Diocese of West Texas

RE: The Election in the Diocese of Los Angeles and the Matter of Consent

We have received the Request for Consent to the ordination and consecration of a bishop suffragan for the Diocese of Los Angeles, pertaining to the Rev. Canon Mary Douglas Glasspool. The following is our response:

According to the canons of The Episcopal Church, discernment of vocation to be a bishop occurs first through a process of election held within a diocese. The diocesan bishops and standing committees of The Episcopal Church then give or withhold consent to ordination and consecration as a continuing part of the discernment process.

The Diocese of Los Angeles recently elected The Rev. Mary Glasspool, a partnered lesbian, as one of two bishops suffragan for that diocese. This election disregards the recommendations of the Windsor Report, the Windsor Continuation Group, the proposed Anglican Covenant, and the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury all of which call for restraint with respect to actions which will further strain the bonds of our Communion.

While this summer's General Convention of the Episcopal Church acknowledged that faithful Christians are not of one mind on this issue, and while Ms. Glasspool's election may be in accordance with the canons, we believe consent to this election will cause greater strain and division within The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Communion.

We believe a bishop is elected not just for a local diocese, but for the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Therefore, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of West Texas is unable to consent to Canon Glasspool's ordination and consecration.

The Rev. John F. Hardie  
The Rev. Ramiro Lopez  
Mrs. Betty Mosty

The Rev. David G. Read  
Mrs. Helen Schnelzer  
Mr. Ron Tribo