

Fort Worth Star-Telegram letter to the editor, published January 25, 2011

Go forward together

I write to correct misleading information in recent news stories, and to assure Episcopalians across the diocese that they have nothing to fear.

However, as a recent court decision affirmed, people who leave The Episcopal Church cannot continue to use the property of The Episcopal Church or that of its Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth or hold themselves out as leaders of the diocese.

We have a responsibility to protect the property, name and other assets built up over 170 years by North Texas Episcopalians for use by future generations.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori joins me in stating that no Episcopalian will be put out of his or her church home. The Episcopalians of St. Andrews will continue to worship in their building (using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer) just as Episcopalians across the diocese will continue worshipping in their buildings.

As we reunite, let us remember the work Jesus himself gave us -- feeding the hungry, visiting the lonely, clothing the naked. In these difficult times, this work is more urgent than ever. Let us go forward together in love as we do it.

-- The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohi, bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth