



# THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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May 7, 2014

Brothers & Sisters,

Our Diocese has been notified of a “Tentative and Proposed Statement of Decision” from Judge Black in the Episcopal Church’s lawsuit against our Diocese. In this initial decision, Judge Black has ruled in favor of the Episcopal Church but a tentative decision is not a judgment and remains subject to change for a period of time.

My understanding is that there is a window of 45-60 days before this “tentative” decision becomes the final trial court decision and embodied in a judgment. During this 45-60 day period, some challenges will be made by our attorneys. However, once the decision is finalized and an actual judgment is issued, it will only be reversible upon appeal.

Please understand that, should this tentative ruling be formalized into a judgment, we will not have to immediately vacate our properties. Under these circumstances there will be time for an orderly departure. Even if we were to accept the ruling and choose not to appeal, we believe there would be a window of time to negotiate the timing and manner in which the churches of the Diocese would surrender their property, allowing time for us to make plans for the future.

There will be a joint meeting of the Diocesan Council and Standing Committee on May 17th with Rusty VanRozeboom to discuss our options. I will be inviting any and all clergy and lay leaders who would like to meet to talk about these things to join me at Cathedral on Sunday, May 18th, at 4pm.

Fellow believers, I understand that this news and its potential implications may produce feelings of concern or even fear for you. However, I urge each one of you to trust in the Lord. He will never leave us nor forsake us, and no matter the fate of our buildings we will be victorious in Him!

Godspeed,

Bishop Menees