

Update concerning St. Christopher's, Spartanburg (05/08/08)

On May 6 Bishop Henderson received, via e-mail, notification from the Rev. George Gray that he had resigned his position as rector of St. Christopher's, Spartanburg. It came also to the Bishop's attention that a majority of the vestry had resigned, thereby creating a structural vacuum that required immediate action to provide adequate clergy and lay leadership.

On May 7, the Diocesan Executive Council, meeting as both Council and Standing Committee of the Diocese, gathered in emergency session to consider three recommendations from the Bishop:

- that the [status of St. Christopher's](#), Spartanburg, be changed from parish to mission;
- that a [governmental plan](#) for St. Christopher's be approved;
- that the Bishop be authorized to inhibit Fr. Gray for abandonment of the Communion.

All three recommendations were approved.

At the meeting Bishop Henderson also noted that he would appoint five communicants to serve as St. Christopher's Mission Committee, and a sixth to serve as treasurer. The Rev. Canon Michael A. Bullock will serve as priest-in-charge.

In his [May 7 letter](#) reporting the inhibition of Fr. Gray, Bishop Henderson wrote: "I affirm the Standing Committee's determination that Fr. Gray has abandoned the Communion of this Church; therefore, Fr. Gray shall be inhibited from officiating in the Diocese for a period of six months. . . . Effective immediately, Fr. Gray is suspended from active ministry in this Church. . . ."

Should Fr. Gray, by the conclusion of the six-month period, reverse his decision to leave The Episcopal Church, the inhibition would be lifted. Should he remain firm in his decision, Bishop Henderson would then, either depose him or release him from his obligations and duties as a priest in this Church.