

Letter of Agreement between Bishop Clark Lowenfield and Rev Dr Peter Johnson
Oct 30th 2023
Hope Pointe Church , Houston TX.
Mediator +Trevor Walters
Witness Bob Ogle.

Sixth Draft/ Nov 18th, 2023/ From Bp Clark, with one amendment by Fr Peter

Bishop Clark and Fr Peter met on October 30th, 2023, with Mediator Bishop Trevor Walters and witness Bob Ogle. They began a process of personal reconciliation through mutual repentance and forgiveness. They also agreed to personal professional separation at this time.

Transfer of Fr. Peter

Bishop Clark has agreed to transfer Fr. Peter from the Diocese as per Peters request. Said transfer will be done in accordance with ACNA Title I, Canon 6.

Invitation to Fr. Peter from the Bishop is given, to request anyone at Trinity having anything against the Bishop, to seek reconciliation with him. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Matthew 18:15; Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:1-3; Ephesians 2:14-20)

Bishop Clark is to invite anyone in the Diocese who has anything against Peter to seek reconciliation with him. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Matthew 18:15; Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 2:14-20; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Bishop Clark and Peter have committed to speak graciously and well of each other. (Ephesians 4:29; James 1:9; James 4:11)

At Bishop Trevor's recommendation, Bishop Clark and Fr. Peter agree that this agreement be communicated to the vestry, the congregation, and those who have been consulted by Peter and Bishop Clark within and outside the diocese, in order to walk in the light (1 John) and close the loop, by sharing the good news of personal reconciliation with professional separation. (John 13:34-35)

Upon successful transfer to another Diocese, the Bishop and Fr. Peter release and give up all claims against each other, both personal and canonical. (Matthew 5:21-24; 37)

Trinity Church Decision

Bishop Clark and Fr Peter offer their full support to the voting members of Trinity to live out Godly self-determination through their vote on Diocecan Transfer, and both agree to respect the outcome of the vote. If Trinity votes to transfer, Bishop Clark will bless and permit the transfer. If Trinity votes to remain, Fr Peter will resign from Trinity and depart peacefully.

As approved by the Vestry, the information process will include a Q&A session the week before the vote as well as on the day of the Special Meeting.

Though Bishop Clark has been very concerned about the potential precedent-setting message it could send, regarding a bishop severing his personal relationship with a congregation under his care before said congregation has self-determined their future, he agrees to not be present at the Q & A meeting or the special meeting on November 26th, 2023. His desire is to avoid adding any more conflict and chaos than has already occurred and is the reason he is willing to risk this being seen as a precedent setting element.

Father Peter agrees that a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Clark will be sent to the congregation by Friday, November 24, 2023 and then subsequently read to the congregation by Deacon Adam at the Special Meeting on Sunday, November 26, 2023. This Pastoral Letter will primarily serve to communicate his thoughts and those of the diocesan family as to his and their love and care for Trinity, as well as their hopes for a future together.

This agreement will be read at the beginning of the Q&A session on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Bishop Clark and Fr Peter both intend that this example of personal reconciliation and restraint, even amidst disagreements, will be followed by the Trinity congregation.

After the vote, whatever the outcome, Fr Peter and Trinity will welcome Bishop Clark to visit the parish to bring closure to this season.

Additional Matters

Bishop Trevor Walters will serve as consultant to field communication between Bishop Clark and Fr. Peter through the process of Fr. Peter's transfer from the Diocese.

Fr. Peter's and Bishop Clark's commitment is that the Campus Communion ministry led by Deacon Adam and Holly Hunter would not be imperiled. And they also commit that the ongoing ministry and relationship with the Hunters not be harmed. The Bishop will retain the necessity of reaching out to and initiating contact with his Deacon, Adam.

The Anglican Unity Task Force of the College of Bishops has through its chair and vice chair given its blessing to Bishop Trevor, to be their official representative in this matter. This latter decision of AUTF still allows for the AUTF's involvement to care for the ongoing relationship between the Bishops and Dioceses involved.

Expenses will be paid by the Diocese and are to be shared equally with Trinity Church-Lafayette.

Bishop Clark and Fr. Peter commit to heed St. Paul's calling in Ephesians 4:1-3:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.