

GETHEMANE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 28, 2010

The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno
and The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Los Angeles
840 Echo Park Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus! We give thanks to God for your many ministries undertaken by, with, and for all of God's children. Yours is an extraordinary calling to preach and live the Gospel in the midst of tremendous diversity.

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Northern Indiana met this week to consider several requests for consent to the election of a bishop, including The Rev. Canon Mary Douglas Glasspool's election as Bishop Suffragan of Los Angeles. Following considerable deliberation, the Standing Committee voted to decline consent to her election (4-0, with one abstaining), and felt it important to indicate our reasoning to you.

In the conversation on the suitability of partnered lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons for ordained ministry, our Standing Committee is not of one mind. At the center of our deliberation today was the question of catholicity, raised particularly in asking whether General Convention Resolution D025 (2009) abrogates or does not abrogate General Convention Resolution B033 (2006). Given statements affirming B033 made following General Convention 2009 by the Presiding Bishop and others, and given that we can anticipate Canon Glasspool's "manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion," we are compelled to decline consent. Our Standing Committee shares a deep concern over the myriad implications of a church cut off from the broader Body of Christ, even as we consider our church's role in prophetic witness to the world for the inclusion of all people. We believe that Canon Glasspool's ordination to the episcopate would exacerbate an already tenuous relationship with our Anglican Communion and ecumenical partners.

We ask your prayers as we continue on this journey together. May God bless you richly in your lives and work.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. James Warnock, President
Standing Committee
Diocese of Northern Indiana

