

Dear Friends in Christ,

In these difficult times when we are faced with the apostasy of The Episcopal Church, individual Episcopalians are faced with difficult decisions about their future and the life of the church. The path to the realization of a new province in North America, for those of us who are in dioceses that continue to support The Episcopal Church will not be short and may not be easy.

If you have already decided that you must leave your current Dayton-area Episcopal congregation and are seeking a non-Episcopal place to worship, this has been written for you.

How to read "ANGLICAN SOJOURN"

We are exiles from an apostate Episcopal Church, cast loose at sea, traveling as pilgrims to a place we trust that God will lead us. The sea is rough, the distance is long, the destination unsure, and the night is dark. Afraid, and weeping, we sing:

"Lord, let your light, light from your face, shine on us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life, to find our way in the darkest night,
Let your light shine on us." *

Still dark, we become stranded on an island's beach. When day comes, we find the natives are friendly and speak a familiar version of our language. The natives, who call themselves REC, make no demands upon us, welcome us to their island, and help us set up our own community within their community. They invite us to join them for meals, celebrations and everyday life. They are thankful for the many gifts possessed by our rag-tag band, and the generosity with which we share them. They pray for us. Still, they make it clear that when rescue comes, if rescue comes, they will be happy for us, and even help us pack up and continue our journey with their blessing.

Life doesn't get much better than that for exiles. You are now ready to read "ANGLICAN SOJOURN."

* *Shine on us* - Philips, Craig & Dean

ANGLICAN SOJOURN

Due to the immediate need for a safe, non-Episcopal, Anglican community for Episcopalians who feel like they can no longer remain at their greater Dayton-area local churches, an arrangement has been made with Christ the King Reformed Episcopal Church and their rector, Fr. Wayne McNamara, to establish an independent Anglican fellowship sharing ministry and resources with their current body with a proposed name of Christ the King Anglican Fellowship. (See explanation for the proposed name in the conveners personal comments at the end of this document.)

Q. What is Christ the King Reformed Episcopal Church (CtKREC)?

A. CtKREC is a local church in the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) at 925 N. Main St., Dayton, OH. Their web site is at: <http://ckrec.org/>

Q. What is the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)?

A. The REC is an Anglican church, whose bishops are in the Apostolic succession. The REC began in 1873 as a response to excesses in The Episcopal Church (TEC) that grew out of the Tractarian movement. Their original web site is at: <http://rechurch.org/home2.htm> The REC is in the process of merging with the Anglican Province

of America. The new REC-APA interim website is currently at: <http://rechurch.org/>

Q. What is Christ the King Anglican Fellowship (CtKAF)?

A. CtKAF is a safe place for Episcopalians to sojourn during these difficult times. With CtKAF, we have an immediate welcoming community of faithful Anglicans who make up CtKREC with whom we can worship, continue to learn and grow, and join with in carrying out God's ministry and mission without the need to be thinking about joining another church. Furthermore, Fr. McNamara has expressed an enthusiasm about meeting the pastoral needs of his brothers and sisters from TEC. There is no need to "leave" TEC at this time to become a part of CtKAF.

Q. What about the future?

A. A major Anglican realignment has begun in North America that will probably result in TEC being entirely outside of the Anglican Communion. This realignment will be messy, confusing, and will take anywhere from many months to a year or two, but it has already started. In the coming realignment, it is expected that a convergence of faithful Anglicans in North America will take place that transcends our current Anglican Communion and national boundaries. These are exciting times and God's hand clearly seems to be at work leading the church to greater unity based on a common faith, rather than our historic ecclesiastical and geopolitical boundaries. In other words, we all may find ourselves - Americans, Canadians, orthodox Episcopalians, continuing churches, and the REC - in the same communion, perhaps even the same church. This is a turning point in history. It would be my intention as convener that we would make application to be part of the emerging network of orthodox Anglican Dioceses and congregations at the earliest practical date.

A personal comment from Andy Figueroa, the convener of CtKAF:

As I drove home from Minneapolis after the 74th General Convention of TEC, I stopped to spend Saturday night in Normal, IL. Finding myself in the orthodox Diocese of Springfield, on Sunday morning I somewhat fearfully made my way to Normal's only Episcopal Church, Christ the King. It was a good experience. Little did I realize then, the prophetic nature of that uncommon name for an Episcopal Church, "Christ the King." Later, I wrote an email to Bishop Peter Beckwith in thanksgiving for Christ the King, Normal, IL, being a refuge for me on that day from the storm that had been brewing inside of me.

A few months ago, while networking for the Alpha Conference, I made the acquaintance of Fr. Wayne McNamara of CtKREC. That led to additional discussion, visits to CtKREC for worship, and finally his welcome to establish a fellowship within their worshiping community.

What better way could there be to honor God, the name Christ the King, and the people at CtKREC, than to adopt the name Christ the King as part of our own identity. Praise God for His goodness.

CtKREC meets for Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, and for Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. CtKAF may occasionally meet at other times and for such purposes as necessary for the good of the order. If you are interested in knowing more, please make yourself known to me at figueroa@philippians-1-20.us or by calling 937.429.5419/937.409.8674.

Allow me to close with a Tolkien quote from The Rev. Dr. Kendall Harmon's web log AND from Fr. McNamara's sermon - both 11/02: "I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All that we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us...."