

August 4, 2015

The Right Reverend F. Clay Matthews
The Episcopal Church in the United States
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

By email to:
cmatthews@episcopalchurch.org
lemory@episcopalchurch.org

Dear Bishop Matthews

This communication is from the Evaluation/Transition Team of St James the Great Episcopal Church in Newport Beach, California on behalf of our congregation. As you are aware from the Presentment with respect to Bishop Bruno that has been submitted by (now) 109 signatories, our congregation has been locked out of the St James church building, our bank accounts have been seized by the Los Angeles Diocese so they are unavailable for the on going expenses of operations, our website has been taken over so it is unavailable for coordinating the congregation, and our donors are looking for avenues to continue to make their donations for the benefit of the congregation rather than having them diverted for other unknown uses by the Diocese. Despite the Bishop's assurance that our congregation could continue, the Diocese is using every resource available to prevent our continuing as a congregation with ongoing worship services and apparently to dissolve the mission church and disperse the congregation elsewhere, and is completely unresponsive to our efforts to communicate. Moreover, members of our congregation have complained directly to office of the Episcopal Church only to be rudely told this week by Church personnel in New York to stop complaining, stop raising these concerns and stop trying to send their children to Sunday school. This is very unchristian. As a result, there is widespread concern that the Episcopal church itself is completely unconcerned with this matter, will continue to delay in acting or appointing any Adviser for the signatories to the Presentment and has informally assured the Diocese and the Bishop that they are free to do whatever they want in this matter to silence the St James congregation.

It has been suggested to us by knowledgeable canon lawyers that your office may be a useful avenue for informal communications in these circumstances. (We are assured of this notwithstanding that in informal communications even before the Presentment the national church seems to have been more concerned about the Bishop's premature announcement of a sale of the church building and have no interest in the congregation, and the more recent reports to us that the national office is summarily and rudely dismissing concerns from members the congregation). Accordingly, we would like to schedule a prompt conference call with you and with the St James Vicar to explore how our worshipful congregation can be facilitated in its efforts to continue Sunday services and community outreach activities and pay for its operations and employees. For this purpose please contact us as soon as possible (Tony Crowell (aic@cox.net); Bill Kroener (kroener.william@gmail.com) ; David Moore (pvrancher@gmail.com); Sue Rawlings (gawlings1@earthlink.net with a copy to the St. James Vicar (revcindy@saintjamesthegreat.org) and let of know of times you are available for a call this week and we will make every effort to accommodate your schedule.

Respectfully Submitted

The Evaluation/Transition Team for St. James the Great, Newport Beach
Tony Crowell
Bill Kroener
David Moore
Sue Rawlings

cc: The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop (pbonnasst@episcopalchurch.org)
The Right Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop-Elect (michael.curry@episdionc.org)
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