



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

THE CENTRAL THIRD OF CALIFORNIA

*THE RT. REV. JERRY A. LAMB, BISHOP
THE REV. CANON MARK H. HALL, CANON TO THE ORDINARY*

PRESS RELEASE

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OCTOBER 17, 2008

Episcopal Diocese charges clergy with abandonment of communion

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin today determined that sixteen deacons and thirty-six priests had abandoned the communion of the Episcopal Church. Findings against each of the fifty-two clergy were based on specific violations of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church related to their support of attempts to remove the diocese from the Episcopal Church, and their repudiation of the ecclesiastical authority of the Episcopal Church and the diocese.

Should the bishop concur with these findings, the clergy will be inhibited and not allowed to function as an Episcopal priest or deacon, or be employed by an Episcopal congregation. Episcopal Church law provides clergy six months to recant and return to the Episcopal Church. Clergy who do not recant will be removed from the ministry of the Episcopal Church.

“This action,” explained the Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, “does not imply a moral judgment of an individual clergy person. It speaks only about the person’s relationship to the Episcopal Church. I recognize that these people may have many wonderful gifts for ministry, and perhaps these talents could be used in another Christian denomination.”

The Episcopal Church asserts that only individuals may voluntarily leave the church. Parishes and diocese are integral parts of the church, and may not leave without the express consent of the governing bodies of the church. All clergy who are ordained in the church take a vow to “conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church,” and to obey their bishop and other ministers who may have authority over them and their work.

Clergy charged with Abandonment of the Communion are listed on the page following.

**Clergy Charged with Abandonment of Communion
of the Episcopal Church
October 17, 2008**

The Rev. Judith Battershell, Ridgecrest	The Rev. Cathy Leach, Three Rivers
The Rev. David Brown, Woodlake	The Rev. Frances Levy, Visalia
The Rev. Madeline Burton Ahwahnee	The Rev. Tom Maggitti, Modesto
The Rev. Wes Clare, Tehachapi	The Rev. Jeannee Marker, Avenal
The Rev. Donald Cleave, San Diego	The Rev. Van McCalister, Tulare
The Rev. John Combs, Los Banos	The Rev. Michael McClenaghan, Modesto
The Rev. Dale Cox, Springville	The Rev. Arlen Neckels, Valley Springs
The Rev. Karl Dietze, Bakersfield	The Rev. Stephen G. Nicholls, Delano
The Rev. William R. Eastman, Modesto	The Rev. Ronald Parry, Merced
The Rev. Jack Estes, Bakersfield	The Rev. Tancredo Pastores, Jr., Visalia
The Rev. Jack Faucett, Bakersfield	The Rev. Carlos Raines, Clovis
The Rev. Canon David M. Foster, Stockton	The Rev. John Reibe, Bakersfield
The Rev. Thomas Foster, Modesto	The Rev. Robert R. Richard, Bakersfield
The Rev. William Gandenberger, Clovis	The Rev. Kenneth Richards, Clovis
The Rev. Erin Giles, Manteca	The Rev. Roger Riggsby, Sutter Creek
The Rev. Howard Giles, Manteca	The Rev. Jerry Roberts, Copperopolis
The Rev. Laurel Greene, Fresno	The Rev. Donald Seeks, Reedley
The Rev. Woodrow Gubuan, Stockton	The Rev. James L. Snell, Fresno
The Rev. Robert Hilliard, Livingston	The Rev. Kay Sprague, Bishop
The Rev. Richard L. James, Visalia	The Rev. James Stout, Copperopolis
The Rev. Buck Jones, Atwater	The Rev. Mary Swann, Sonora
The Rev. Michael Jun, Bakersfield	The Rev. Charles Threewit, Palmdale
The Rev. Gordon Kamai, Oakhurst	The Rev. Robert Tobias, Oakdale
The Rev. Linda Klug, Bishop	The Rev. John Paul Wadlin, Ridgecrest
The Rev. Wolfgang Krismanits, Sonora	The Rev. Andrew Watson, Reedley
The Rev. Robert Latour, Porterville	The Rev. Jane Williams, Sanger

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