



The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

June 11, 2015

To the members of Diocesan Council

Dear friends in Christ—

Over the past week and half, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles has received many emails from an individual claiming to represent the people of St. James the Great Church, Newport Beach, as well as from a few clergy members in our Diocese. We have read, listened, and prayed about the issues presented.

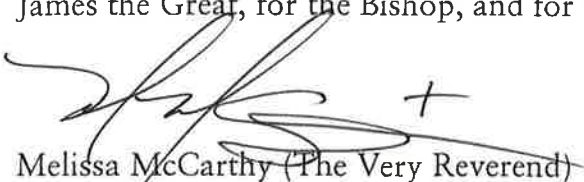
We have also done our due diligence, which included such things as researching the Canons, St. James the Great 2014 Parochial Report, and Minutes of the Corporation of the Diocese. On May 20, 2014, in accordance with Diocesan Canon 3.05 (Irrevocable Trust), the Directors of the Corporation of the Diocese gave Corporation Sole the title to the St. James property. There was nothing illegal or inappropriate about this decision.

Over the years, the Bishop, as Corporation Sole, has handled the sale and purchase of many properties, St. James the Great being one of the many. What is important to note is that the *building* has been sold. The church, that is its people, still remain the Mission of St. James the Great. The Bishop, the Directors of the Corporation of the Diocese, and the Standing Committee are all committed to the building and growth of the congregation of St. James the Great. That said, the community of St. James the Great is not, nor has it ever been, the building. The Standing Committee supports the vision of building congregations in a responsible way with the resources of the Diocese. Even though the Standing Committee has no authority over Corporation Sole, the members stand by and concur with the decision that has been made.

Beyond the legal and property issues, there is a pastoral concern for the people of St. James the Great and the Standing Committee, as well as many other clergy and laity in our Diocese are addressing. Most importantly at this time is the support for the Mission of St. James the Great and all it can be. We pray they will be able to continue the mission and ministry to which they are being called.

We humbly request any further inquiries be directed to the Bishop's office.

This comes with our sincere gratitude for the care and concern all have expressed for St. James the Great, for the Bishop, and for the Standing Committee.



Melissa McCarthy (The Very Reverend)
President of the Standing Committee

Signed on behalf of all the Members of the Standing Committee