



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

Contacts:

- The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb, Bishop of San Joaquin: jerrylamb@diosanjoaquin.org; 209-952-0006
- The Rev. Canon Mark Hall, Canon to the Ordinary: markhall@diosanjoaquin.org; 209-952-0006
- Michael Glass, Esq., Chancellor; mglass@diosanjoaquin.org; 415-454-8485
- Diocesan Web site: www.diosanjoaquin.org

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Letters of deposition sent to priests and deacons who chose to leave the Episcopal Church.

Final action was taken Friday, May 22 and Tuesday May 26, 2009 regarding sixty-one Episcopal clergy who went with former Bishop John David Schofield when he attempted to leave the Episcopal Church and align with the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone. Schofield and these clergy refused to recognize the authority of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Schofield was deposed (removed from office) in March of 2008. The clergy who followed Schofield refused to acknowledge the Episcopal Bishop of San Joaquin, the Rt. Rev. Jerry A. Lamb, and were determined to have abandoned the Communion of the Episcopal Church in October and November 2008. The clergy had six months to deny their abandonment, recant, or renounce their ministry in the Episcopal Church or face removal or deposition from the ministry of the Episcopal Church. The action taken by Bishop Lamb on Friday and Tuesday, with the support of the Diocesan Standing Committee, deposes and removes these clergy from the rolls of the Episcopal Church. As a result these clergy may no longer serve in the Episcopal Church.

"I find the actions I was forced to take last Friday and Tuesday to be heartbreaking," said Bishop Lamb. "I have known a few of these clergy personally and others by the stories I have heard about their ministry. But, the fact is, they chose to abandon their relationship with the Episcopal Church. They declined to ask for a release from their ordination vows, and I had no option but to bring the charges of Abandonment of the Communion to the Standing Committee last year and take these final steps today. It is a sad day."

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