

**STATEMENT TO MEDIA**  
Diocese of San Joaquin, Stockton, California

April 25, 2008

Michael O. Glass, Esq., Chancellor to the Diocese of San Joaquin has provided notice that on April 24, 2008, the Diocese of San Joaquin and the Episcopal Church filed a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in Fresno County Superior Court to reclaim possession of the real and personal property belonging to the Diocese. Glass said, "The primary defendant is John-David Schofield, the former bishop of the Diocese who was recently deposed from the episcopate by the Episcopal Church on March 12, 2008 as a result of his attempts to remove the diocese from the Episcopal Church. Such actions are contrary to the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese."

Mr. Glass added that prior to the filing of the Complaint, the current Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin, the Rt. Rev. Jerry A. Lamb, attempted to secure Mr. Schofield's timely turnover of Diocesan assets and property. "Mr. Schofield did not agree to this request," said Glass.

Bishop Lamb has emphasized that the Diocesan leadership and the Episcopal Church have a canonical, fiduciary and moral duty to protect the assets and property of the Church for the Church's mission. Lamb said, "While it is regrettable that legal action is necessary, the Diocese and the Episcopal Church have no other viable option but to seek the intervention of the Court to recover the property and assets of the Diocese."

"Regardless of the necessity of proceeding with the litigation," Bishop Lamb continued, "the diocesan leadership and I remain committed to reconciliation with clergy and parishes that are still trying to understand their relationship with the Episcopal Church." The Bishop has recently sent letters to all clergy in the diocese inviting them to meet and enter into dialogue with him directly on these issues. The Diocese is also preparing for a three day faith-based reconciliation seminar in June and further programming regarding rebuilding and reconciliation in its October diocesan convention.

For further information please contact Michael O. Glass, Esq., Chancellor to the Diocese of San Joaquin at [mglass@diosanjoaquin.org](mailto:mglass@diosanjoaquin.org), or the Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb, Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin at [jerrylamb@diosanjoaquin.com](mailto:jerrylamb@diosanjoaquin.com) or 209.952.0006. For information about the Diocese of San Joaquin, see its website [www.diosanjoaquin.org](http://www.diosanjoaquin.org).