

VIRGINIA :

FILED
CIVIL INTAKE

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

JOHN T. FREY
CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT
FAIRFAX, VA

IN RE:

TRURO CHURCH
10520 Main Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

) CL 2006 15792 -
)
) CIVIL ACTION NO. _____
)
)

**REPORT OF CONGREGATIONAL
DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 57-9**

Pursuant to Va. Code § 57-9, Truro Church, a nonstock religious corporation under the laws of Virginia, respectfully submits this report in support of its petition for approval of its congregational determination.

OVERVIEW

1. A division has occurred in the broader “church or religious society” to which Truro Church was attached prior to its congregational determination. The denomination is now divided in structure as well as doctrine, and this division is present at the global level (the Anglican Communion), the national level (the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., or “TEC”), and the local level (the Diocese of Virginia, or “the Diocese”). The division has been acknowledged by authorities throughout the Anglican Communion, including in the Diocese of Virginia.

2. By majority vote of 963 to 79 conducted in accordance with Va. Code § 57-9, the members of Truro Church over 18 years of age have determined to disaffiliate from TEC and the Diocese and to reaffiliate with another branch of the Anglican Communion. The adult members of 12 other congregations—which, together with Truro Church, comprise roughly 15 percent of average Sunday attendance and 19 percent of congregational operating revenue, in the Diocese—

have likewise severed ties with the denomination, as has at least one other congregation in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and more than 100 other Episcopal congregations in various Episcopal dioceses throughout the United States.

3. Ten of these 14 Virginia congregations have affiliated with the Church of Nigeria, a branch of the Anglican Communion, by joining the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (“CANA”), a United States-based structure, and the Anglican District of Virginia (“District”), an association of Virginia congregations under CANA’s jurisdiction. CANA is a missionary initiative of the Church of Nigeria, and by virtue of that affiliation CANA’s districts, bishop, constituent churches, and missions are members of the Anglican Communion just as are any other Church of Nigeria districts, bishops, churches, and missions; however, CANA is separate from (and no longer in active communion with) TEC. CANA and the District were formed in response to the division within TEC and the Diocese that led to this petition, and CANA and the District now provide episcopal oversight and an ecclesiastical structure for Anglican congregations that have divided from TEC. The remaining four Virginia congregations that have severed ties with TEC and the Diocese as a result of the division have reaffiliated with dioceses of the Province of Uganda, also a branch of the Anglican Communion that is no longer in active communion with TEC. These four congregations are in the process of obtaining “affiliate member” status in the Anglican District of Virginia.

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION IN VIRGINIA BEFORE THE DIVISION

4. The Virginia colonial legislature established Truro Parish in 1732, covering a large portion of what is now Northern Virginia. One of the congregations established in Truro Parish before the American Revolution was known as Payne’s Church, built in 1766 on Ox Road near Fairfax Station, a few miles from the present location of Truro Church. The immediate

ancestor of what is now Truro Church, and the first Episcopal congregation in Fairfax City, was Zion Church, organized within Truro Parish in 1843 by the rector of The Falls Church. Zion Church completed its first structure in 1845 on a half-acre at approximately the present site of Truro's chapel. This structure was destroyed in the Civil War and rebuilt thereafter as funds allowed. The Zion Vestry purchased a 10-acre plot to the east of the rebuilt church in 1882. In 1933, Zion Church built what is now the Chapel, modeled on the old Payne's Church (which also had been destroyed in the Civil War), and assumed the name Truro Church. The present main sanctuary was built in 1957. Today, Truro Church serves approximately 1300 worshippers in the Northern Virginia area on an average Sunday.

5. Truro Church is governed by a Vestry consisting of 18 lay members elected by the congregation to promote the spiritual well-being of the congregation, to facilitate public worship services, and to manage the temporal affairs and property of the Church, including the oversight of the Church's trustees, who act at the Vestry's direction. Truro Church incorporated in February 2006, and its Vestry is its Board of Directors. The Vestry annually elects from among its members a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden. The Vestry carries out its functions in concert with the rector, or senior pastor, of the Church. The Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns became rector of Truro Church in 1991. In August 2006, he was consecrated as a bishop by the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), and the Bishop of Virginia, the Rt. Rev. Peter J. Lee, licensed him to continue to carry out the functions of rector through the end of 2006.

6. In 1785, six congregations that had been subject to the Church of England prior to the American Revolution founded the Diocese of Virginia in 1785. The Diocese is governed by a bishop and an annual Council of lay and clergy delegates from its congregations; between annual Councils, the bishop is assisted by a 12-member Standing Committee (elected by the