



Know and share the love of Jesus Christ

January 14, 2016

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle
Episcopal Diocese of Texas
1225 Texas Street
Houston, TX 77002-3504

Dear Bishop Doyle:

As the Senior Warden of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, I am writing you to confirm that our congregation has carefully undertaken a process of discernment about the blessing of same-gender marriages. The eight-member task force that was appointed by the Rector to guide that process received feedback from the congregation over the last six months. The process was communicated to the members of the parish verbally, electronically, and in the printed announcements for worship on Sundays.

Tonight the Rector presented their report and its unanimous recommendation to proceed with same-gender marriages to the members of the Vestry. After a wonderful discussion about what this means for Palmer and how to care for everyone who walks through our doors, including those who disagree with us, the Vestry has voted to affirm the task force's recommendation to allow same-gender marriages to be blessed in our church.

Furthermore, as required by you in the paper *Unity in Mission*, it is the Vestry's intention to support the Rector in the implementation of this recommendation. The Rector will share this with the congregation at our annual parish meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2016, noting that it requires the approval of the Bishop of Texas to become official.

Please let me know if you require additional information to make that decision.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Driggers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Driggers, Senior Warden