



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate

September 22, 2009

Mr. Scott Shaffer, Warden
The Rev. Robert Hansel, Chaplain
St. Mark's Chapel

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of 31 August. I am grieved to hear of your difficult history in attempting to establish St. Mark's as a mission. However, the Bishop of South Carolina has the authority to make such decisions and I do not. Nor am I aware of any legitimate way for you to affiliate with a neighboring diocese. You could, however, ask your bishop for Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO). You might want to consult with a neighboring bishop about his potential willingness to entertain such a relationship, and then consult with Bp. Lawrence about your desire for such a relationship. This kind of arrangement has worked in several dioceses, though more often for a congregation that has found its bishop to be too progressive for its taste. DEPO was designed, however, to be applicable in either direction.

If you need further direction, I would suggest you contact the President of Province IV, the Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, Bishop of East Carolina.

I remain

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER