

Special Meeting of the Congregation of Christ Church Denton, St. Mary's Whitechapel Parish

For the purpose of Approval of the Revised Bylaws and

Discernment Discussion as Requested by the Diocese

September 20, 2026

The Special Meeting of the Congregation opened with a meditation and prayer led by Fr. Matthew D'Amario. In attendance were Tracy Berrigan, Pat Forslind, Kitty Adams, Joe and Joy Murtha, Ruth Hynson-Palmer, Jeff Lane, Walt Palmer, Mary Cole, Mark and Lynn Fuchs, Lynn Frankton, Tom and Celeste Cornelia, Gayle Muir, Joann Hendricks, Pat Holmes, Sandy Wright, Craig D'Amario, Sue Simons, Suze Chaffinch and Candy Minner.

Revised Bylaws – Tracy gave background information about the need to update the 1979 bylaws and the process that took place to get approval from the Diocese in order to bring the bylaws to the congregation today. Following a delay due to COVID-19, clergy changes and revision changes requested, the Constitution and Canons Committee approved the bylaws earlier this year. They require that a special congregational meeting be held to approve the bylaws. Tracy reviewed all the substantive changes made and following a motion by Mark Fuchs and a second by Pat Forslind, the revised bylaws were unanimously approved by the congregation. There was no further discussion.

Discernment Video – Following a reading of today's collect by Fr. Matt, Tracy reviewed the discernment process laid out by the Diocese and gave some highlights from the video. There was great discussion about the video and the observation that it focused too much on numbers and statistics and not enough on the stories that describe what the church is in this Diocese. There was no information presented in the video about mission work going on or how communities were impacted by the Episcopal Church. Statistics don't describe what the church is and the average Sunday attendance numbers don't tell the story of how churches in the Diocese are doing the work of Christ and spreading the Good News. There is nothing inherently wrong with being a small church – there are opportunities for connections and meaningful relationships can develop that make a difference both individually and in the community that perhaps don't exist in megachurches.

Tracy will compile answers to the questions asked by the Diocese and submit them. This video is the first step in the discernment process, which focused on education. The Diocese wants all church congregations to have the same information about the Diocese (how it works, what it is etc) and the attendance trends before moving on to step two of the discernment process, which will be a visit from someone on the discernment team to discuss more with Christ Church members.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Fuchs, Registrar