



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 22, 2015

Dear Parishioners,

Over the past year the vestry and clergy have been in a process of discernment regarding same-sex marriage. On Monday, September 21, 2015, your Rector requested and received from the vestry a resolution of support for his decision to grant to the clergy the authority, exercisable in their discretion, to perform the sacrament of marriage for same-sex couples who are members of Christ Church, effective immediately. Enclosed you will find a letter from the Rector, a letter from the Clergy, and a copy of the resolutions passed by the vestry.

These actions came after much communal prayer, discernment, and consideration. We spent countless hours as a group prayerfully studying scripture, listening to one another and reflecting on the marriage sacrament and what this decision would mean for our parish. The clergy and the vestry also benefited greatly from the letters, phone calls and meetings they had with members of our parish.

This decision is consistent with the direction set by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and is also squarely in line with our parish's core values, as "a Christ-centered Episcopal church rooted in scripture, tradition and reason; respectful of and strengthened by our differences...." These core values, originally adopted in 2007, were reaffirmed by the vestry as part of the resolutions it adopted in support of this decision.

Thank you for your commitment to Christ Church. We look forward to our future together as we work to serve Christ at and through our Spiritual Home.

Faithfully,

Chip Edens, Rector

Mary Davis Smart, Senior Warden