

Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop of Washington
Episcopal Church House
Mount St. Alban
Washington, D.C., 20016

Dear Bishop Budde,

Greetings to you in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that this letter finds you well and asks for God's continued blessings and guidance upon you as you lead our Church during this time. You and the rest of the Diocese's leadership are in our constant prayers.

This letter follows up on our Zoom meeting of February 8th at which you expressed your intent to terminate the supplemental oversight arrangement that All Saints Parish ("All Saints") has had with the Diocese of Washington ("Diocese") since October 2006. As detailed below, All Saints looks forward to becoming fully engaged within the Diocese, under your leadership, while maintaining our distinctive voice as we seek to share Christ's love and God's Kingdom.

At the time supplemental oversight was implemented, the relations between the Diocese and All Saints were strained and there also existed deep divisions within All Saints. As designed by your predecessor, Bishop John Chane and Bishop Edward Salmon, supplemental oversight did not involve Bishop Chane relinquishing any of his authority with respect to All Saints. Rather, it involved Bishop Chane inviting Bishop Salmon to assist All Saints in concentrating on spreading the Good News and healing its rifts rather than debating national church issues. After Bishop Salmon's passing, you agreed to extend supplemental oversight and asked Bishop Ed Little to assume Bishop Salmon's role.

Supplemental oversight has greatly benefited All Saints. We have, for the most part, healed our rifts. We are striving together to become a praying church and a Kingdom Church. We have added a family table service focusing on young families; we have enhanced our adult, youth, and children education programs; we have expanded both our global and our local outreach programs; and we have doubled our active membership with an emphasis on young families. During the pandemic, we have been able to use live streaming, Zoom meetings, and telephone calls to continue, and in some cases (for example, outreach), even further expand our ministries.

In 2020, we adopted a 5-year Strategic Plan. Our mission is to share Christ's love, transform lives and build God's Kingdom. Our vision is to grow our Christ-centered, Bible-based efforts beyond our Sunday worship to all corners of our church; to deepen our calling to Christ's great commission through mission and outreach, most especially in our church and local community; and to bring God's grace to people of all ages, especially youth. Our core priorities are strengthening our spiritual and Biblical foundation, expanding our mission and outreach, and creating a robust student ministry.

Bishop Mariann, the situation at All Saints in 2021 is quite different from the situation in 2006 and we fully understand your decision to conclude the unique supplemental oversight arrangement as being no longer needed and to "normalize" relations between the Diocese and All Saints. We, in turn, look forward to becoming more active in the Diocese while retaining our distinctive voice and remaining true to the principles that we have articulated in our strategic plan and our vision of a Kingdom Church. We recognize that there are differences between All Saints and some parishes in the Diocese.

However, despite those differences, we have much in common because we all are seeking to share Christ's love and build God's Kingdom.

We are concerned that some parishioners may misunderstand what the termination of supplemental oversight will mean to All Saints. They may conclude that, with the end of supplemental oversight, All Saints will no longer be able to be itself; it will lose its "independence"; traditional worship and teachings will be limited; and/or All Saints will be forced to adopt positions (or what some parishioners might call "political agendas") more consistent with those of other parishes of the Diocese and less consistent with All Saints' goal of becoming a Kingdom Church.

At our meeting, you assured us that the intent of terminating supplemental oversight is not to change All Saints. In fact, you emphasized, for example, that, after the termination of supplemental oversight, operations and worship at All Saints will continue unaffected. Indeed, you even stated that, after the termination of supplemental oversight, Bishop Little would be welcome to continue to assist All Saints in its striving to become a praying and a Kingdom Church.

The question is how to best make known your views to the parish. We propose to discuss the termination of supplemental oversight at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 6th. It is our hope that you would consider providing a letter to the parish (perhaps in conjunction with the Rector) explaining that the (i) unique supplemental oversight arrangement is no longer needed and (ii) the termination will not affect operations, worship, or other activities at All Saints.

Thank you so much for the time you took to share with us your thoughts concerning the termination of supplemental oversight. We greatly appreciate the grace, respect and latitude you have shown our parish over the years and we look forward to working with you as we continue to strive to be a praying church and a Kingdom Church as set forth in our Strategic Plan. We are hopeful that in the future you will be able to visit us more often and engage in our programs including our educational programs for adults, youth, and children.

Respectfully yours,

[Signed] on behalf of All Saints Vestry