



December 27, 2007

To the People of God at St. Mark's Cathedral,

Blessed Christmas to you all! During the St. Mark's Vestry meeting of December 11, 2007 the following motion was made and passed:

"Be it resolved that the vestry of Saint Mark's Cathedral requests the Bishop of Olympia to appoint an outside party to confer with all relevant persons to assess leadership and management issues at Saint Mark's Cathedral and make recommendations for improvement. Both the vestry and the Bishop will be considered clients to whom the results will be presented."

I have been working ever since to secure the person for this task and I am very happy to report that my first choice, and first contacted, has agreed to do this. The Rt. Rev. Herbert Donovan will be with us the days of January 28th through February 1st. Bishop Donovan comes highly recommended, and with all the qualifications to perform this task. He was the Bishop of Arkansas from 1980 to 1993 and the secretary of the House of Bishops from 1986-1998. He has also served as Provisional Bishop in Chicago, Assisting Bishop of New York and New Jersey, was the Anglican Observer at the United Nations, and Interim Vicar of Trinity, Wall Street, New York and Trinity, Copley Square, Boston. He currently resides in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

More details about his visit will follow after the first of the year but let me say now that he will be requesting interviews with much of the staff, vestry, and other leadership. If you are asked to participate I urge you to do so. Bishop Donovan may well contact some before he arrives to interview over the phone or to set up an appointment during his visit. In addition, he plans to have an open time during the week for anyone in the cathedral community who wishes to set an appointment and come see him. When the process for this is known you will be notified so that you may avail yourself of this chance if you wish.

As I said in the Vestry meeting, whoever comes to perform this task, and now we know that is Bishop Donovan, it will not be managed by anyone but the person tasked. I have made it clear to Bishop Donovan that he has full access to anyone he wishes to request a meeting and to information he feels would be necessary to fully assess leadership and management issues at St. Mark's.

Finally, I urge you all to keep your community in your prayers. I urge you to resist making uninformed comment, or speculation. I urge you to be gentle with one another and generous in your compassion as we move in hope for the future.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel
Bishop of Olympia