



August 31, 2007

To all Standing Committees:

Last November, the Diocese of South Carolina requested consents to the election of The Very Rev. Mark Lawrence to be our next Bishop. Although we received consents from the majority of Bishops, regrettably we were unable to attain a majority of conforming consents in the time required by the Canons so that we could move forward with his consecration.

After months of discussions throughout the Diocese, prayer and deliberation, the S.C. Standing Committee called a convention on June 9, 2007, to discern a way forward. Immediately after that convention, and in accordance with its direction, our Standing Committee set a date of August 4, 2007 for a convention to elect our next Bishop, and unanimously voiced its support of Fr. Lawrence. In lieu of floor nominations, a simple petition process (consistent with published TEC election policy) was opened, allowing others who might want to propose another candidate the opportunity to do so, until July 11. At the end of the petition process, no other candidates had been proposed. On August 4, at our special Bishop's Election convention, Fr. Lawrence was overwhelmingly elected with only two dissenting clergy votes and two abstentions (three congregations voted no, one abstaining; missions were all yes, with one half deputation divided).

Throughout this process, we have operated within the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, in consultation with the Presiding Bishop's Office. It is our prayerful hope that you will see in this election the work of the Holy Spirit, as do we, and give your consent to Fr. Lawrence's election.

The following have been received pertaining to the election of Mark Joseph Lawrence to be Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina, and forwarded to the National Church:

1. The Certificate of Election;
2. Evidence of his ordination as deacon and priest;
3. The Testimonial required by Canon, signed by a constitutional majority of the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina; and
4. The required medical certificates of fitness.

It becomes my duty, therefore, to ask you to complete and return to me the attached forms, indicating whether or not you consent to the Ordination and Consecration of Mark Joseph Lawrence to be a Bishop in the Church of God, and Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina.

Sincerely yours,
The Rev. J. Haden McCormick
President of the Standing Committee
Diocese of South Carolina