



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

April 25, 2017

To the Clergy and Wardens of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.

This past weekend, Truro Anglican Church announced that it has secured a long-term lease from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia on its Fairfax City church and campus. This lease will last for at least 20 years and perhaps as long as 50 years.

As part of the lease agreement, Truro has also announced the launch of a new initiative, the “Truro Institute: A School of Peace and Reconciliation.” This ministry will have equal representation on its board from Truro and the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, as well as representatives of Coventry Cathedral and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Truro’s announcement includes this description of the work of the Institute: “The ministry will work with seminarians and other young people to seed our respective denominations with a new generation of peace makers, by teaching them and letting them live into the challenging work of reconciliation. Just the fact of the joint involvement of EDV [Episcopal Diocese of Virginia] and Truro Anglican is a living testament to the work the Institute hopes to accomplish.” (The full text of the Truro announcement is [here](#).)

Truro leaders have made clear to me that the heart of this initiative is evangelistic. They desire to build loving relationships and, through them, to win back to the truth of the Scriptures those who have departed from the historic Christian faith. And they desire to lead to Christ those who do not know Jesus as the Crucified and Risen Lord, the only Savior of the world. I certainly support such goals and pray for even more fruit from Truro’s dynamic evangelism ministries.

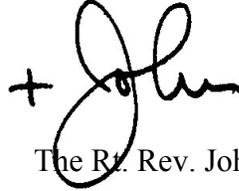
At the same time, as I have been made aware of the vision for this Institute, I have repeatedly expressed to the Truro leadership my deep concerns over the possibility of their conducting this ministry in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Because of the false teaching of the Episcopal Church, I asked them not to enter into a joint ministry with the Episcopal Diocese. The issues that divide us are of first importance and to partner with the Episcopal Church is to give the mistaken impression that these concerns are merely secondary. If I thought that the issues that divide us were secondary, I would never have left the Episcopal Church.

The Truro leadership has chosen to proceed in joint ministry with the Episcopal Diocese in spite of my opposition. I am deeply grieved by this, and I hope Truro will reconsider.

I love Truro and I want Truro to thrive. I will continue to do all I can to care for its clergy and people as their bishop and chief pastor, and to support Truro's ministries, particularly those of prayer and healing, evangelism and church planting.

Please join me in praying for the Lord to work in and through this situation for his Kingdom purposes. Pray for Truro and for all of us as a Diocese, that we may be united in love and in mission, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name "John" in a cursive script.

The Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey