



The Diocese of Western Anglicans
Anglican Church in North America

The Rt. Rev. William A. Thompson, Bishop

August 29, 2013

TO: Diocese of Western Anglicans Clergy

FR: Bishop Bill Thompson

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus. I am writing to share some personal information that is important and needful for you to know.

As some of you may or may not know, I suffered a concussion last month. Thankfully, the doctors were able to determine, after another recent fall, that this was due to my blood pressure being too low, caused by my recent, purposeful weight loss. I am very happy to tell you that I have received a great deal of care, and I am feeling very much better.

I understand that some have had questions about my health prior to these incidents, and I want to let you know that there have been a few issues which are neither critical nor degenerative. I have been addressing these with my doctors, and my recent falls are unrelated to them.

When someone deals with health problems, no matter how short, it makes one think. Shortly after I left the hospital, I had the opportunity to spend a significant time with the Lord. At first I was asking him to let me continue to be the Bishop of Western Anglicans. Later that day while recuperating, I had a completely different experience. I remembered my wife, Claudia, and her concern for me and for us to have as much time together as we could in retirement. I thought and prayed about that for a short while, and my outlook changed. I realized it was time for me to retire as the Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans. I have decided to do so effective June 30, 2014.

As I have been living with this decision for nearly two weeks now, I find I am more and more satisfied with the rightness of it. It's very important to me to enjoy retirement with my beloved wife, Claudia, who has already been retired for seven years. While I have enjoyed tremendously the privilege of being your Bishop, I realize that season should begin to change for me. A good foundation has been set in the Diocese of Western Anglicans, and I trust that the Lord will provide the leadership needed to further build and strengthen the diocese and the new Bishop.

The Executive Committee of the diocese is ready to move forward to discern who will be the second Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans and plans to use the same process which was used in 2009 when I was elected. There will certainly be more information soon, and I bid your prayers for the diocese, for the search committee, and for Claudia and myself during this time of transition.

A notice will be sent to the entire House of Delegates shortly so that our lay delegates are also informed of my decision. I invite you to then inform your congregations, and you may share with them the information I have presented, as these are open letters.

It has been a great pleasure to be your Bishop. My greatest joy has been getting to know all of you over these years in the diocese. You have become my friends, and I hope we see you after my retirement, as I will still be living in Long Beach.

I imagine that many will ask what I plan to do. First, spend a lot of time with Claudia. Second, figure out what God's call will be for me. Third, be praying for the diocese. After having been ordained for over forty-two years, it will be interesting to see what the Lord has in mind for us, but the Lord knows.

I thank all of you for making my episcopate such a joy. Thank you for being there with me, for your dedication to your call, for your friendship, and for your love of the Lord. Claudia and I will be praying for all of you as you continue to build the kingdom of God in the Diocese of Western Anglicans.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bishop Bill", with a small cross symbol to the left.

The Right Reverend William A. Thompson
Diocese of Western Anglicans
Anglican Church in North America