



# The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

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St. James' Episcopal Church  
Sr. Warden and Vestry  
Sedro-Wooley, Washington

To the Good and Faithful People of St. James', Sedro-Wooley,

I am in receipt of your letter of December 5th. I know this was not an easy letter to write, and even more not an easy decision to make. I hear the grief and sorrow at this, and remember some of it from my personal time with you in the beginning of this journey. I know I cannot take those feelings away but I did want to share with you my profound inspiration at who you revealed yourselves to be in this process. What I have witnessed and heard about is a mature and spiritually grounded community of followers. That alone proves that although the building you have known, loved, cared for, and grown in, will be no more, YOU, will continue to be. And YOU are the Church. Even in the midst of sorrow, that is a joyous reality.

You have been in my prayers, and that will continue. As we can be helpful to you I hope you will not hesitate to ask. Many blessings and thanks for your witness.

Faithfully,

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