



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

900 Oliver Bldg., 535 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh PA 15222

August 15, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to share with you the news that I have been invited (and have accepted) the invitation to take up a key mission post for South America with South American Mission Society (SAMS)/Church Mission Society (CMS). SAMS and CMS are currently finalizing integration talks that may well lead to the formation of a single organization of both of these mission agencies. Their final decisions are expected by early December, after which I will become either Director for South America in the newly-integrated society or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a continuing SAMS.

CMS has a very exciting vision for worldwide mission in the Anglican Communion and SAMS will complete the vision with the South American contribution. SAMS administratively has been scattered around England and this move would consolidate all the staff at the CMS headquarters in Oxford. The long term vision is to enable a South American mission office which would coordinate mission work in, from and to South America. Obviously my history with SAMS both in Argentina and Spain (now 18 years ago) and my experience on the SAMS USA board will be very useful.

So, apart from the excitement of a new challenge, why am I leaving Pittsburgh now? One thing I need to be very clear about is that my decision does not reflect any change of heart regarding realignment or my confidence in the vision and leadership of the diocese. Most of you will know of the birth of our first granddaughter in December 2007. Sophie is certainly a major pull for both Catherine and me; we would love to be nearer the family to be able to support them. It is an added bonus that our son, Joel, and his wife Sarah, live in Oxford, at least until he finishes his doctoral studies.

I have told everyone in England how hard it will be to leave Pittsburgh. We have enjoyed living and working here more than any of the other 12 places we have lived in the last 33 years of marriage. I honestly believe that, despite "the present unpleasantness", the diocese has a wonderful future ahead. We have incredibly gifted clergy and lay leaders and I know realignment will bring fresh incentive for mission, both local and worldwide. My experience at both GAFCON and Lambeth assure me that orthodox, Biblical Anglicanism is very much alive and ready to continue God's mission; and they are all delighted to have Pittsburgh as an important part of that calling.

One Church of Miraculous Expectation and Missionary Grace

900 Oliver Building • 535 Smithfield Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15222 • 412-281-6131 phone • 412-471-5591 fax • <http://www.pitanglican.org>

I will start full time on Jan 1st 2009, but inevitably there will be some preliminaries to sort out before then, including at least one trip to meet with the SAMS staff and be present for the SAMS Council final decision on the link-up with CMS.

I am most grateful to Bishop Bob and the Leadership Team (Mary and Marsha, and, of course, Jack and Nancy) and the Diocesan office staff for the most fulfilling years of ministry I have had so far since my ordination in 1975. I will miss so many things about working here and will find it very hard to say goodbye.

But we have until mid December to work together and seek together to be faithful to God's call on our lives. I pledge to work hard to the end and thank you all for the privilege of working with you.

Sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Henry". The word "Henry" is written in a cursive style, and a plus sign is written to its left. A curved line underlines the signature.

+Henry