Press Release

For Immediate Release

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CHRIST CHURCH
SAVANNAH
Bible Based Family Focused Mission Minded

Historic Christ Church Responds to The Episcopal Church's Abandonment of Worldwide Anglican Communion

September 30, 2007—Savannah, Georgia: The vestry of historic Christ Church has voted to continue in a province in good standing with the rest of the worldwide Anglican Communion by placing itself under the pastoral care of The Rt. Reverend John Guernsey, Rector of All Saint's Church in Woodbridge, VA and a bishop of the worldwide Anglican Communion's Province of Uganda, Africa. The vestry was unanimous in its decision.

The vote follows a period of discernment and prayer that stretches back to 2000. "For seven years we have studied scripture, prayed and engaged in deep and significant conversations within the vestry, the congregation and the diocese," Senior Warden Steve Dantin said. "It became clear to us that this was the best direction for us to take in order to proclaim the authority of Holy Scripture and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior."

"We have witnessed how The Episcopal Church (TEC) has separated itself from the historic Christian faith over the last few decades," Dantin continued. "In February 2007 TEC received a final call from the Anglican Communion to return to the central tenets of Christianity, and TEC failed to comply with the request by the September 30 deadline. Therefore, TEC has abandoned the communion previously existing between TEC (including the Diocese of Georgia) and Christ Church. This is a sober moment for us, but our first allegiance is to the Lord Jesus Christ and God's word revealed to us in the Holy Bible."

"Traditional Anglican worship will continue at Christ Church just as it has for almost 275 years," said The Reverend Marc Robertson, Rector of Christ Church. "We have had an established mission relationship with Uganda for several years. Bishop Guernsey in Virginia is well known to us, and I welcome the opportunity to serve under his authority."

The province of Uganda, under the leadership of Archbishop Henry Orombi, has a membership of 9.5 million people, including 33 churches in the U.S. Christ Church is one of over 1,000 congregations representing more than 200,000 U. S. Anglicans and 1,200 clergy who are associates of the Anglican Communion Network, an ecclesial, Anglican body in the U. S. Christ Church is also an affiliate of the American Anglican Council, an advocacy group for Anglican orthodoxy in the United States.

Founded in 1733 with the establishment of the Georgia colony, Christ Church is the Mother Church of Georgia and the oldest continuous Christian congregation. Christ Church predates the establishment of The Episcopal Church in the United States and the Diocese of Georgia. Early rectors include British evangelists John Wesley and George Whitefield. Located on its original site on historic Johnson Square in downtown Savannah, Christ Church continues as an active and thriving congregation.

Christ Church is a Bible-based, mission-minded congregation. The Christ Church Parish House hosts Emmaus House, started in the 1980's, which feeds 30,000 meals to homeless people annually, including a Christmas morning breakfast. Christ Church is a full partner in the Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens, which it founded in 1935, returning the bulk of its proceeds to community ministries and mission. Christ Church also supports missions in Pass Christian, Mississippi; Belize; Romania; Russia; South America and Uganda.

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October 1, 2007

Dear Voting Member of Christ Church:

Enclosed you will find a resolution unanimously passed by your vestry on September 30th. This resolution places Christ Church under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Anglican Province of Uganda, under the pastoral oversight of the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey of Woodbridge, Virginia. This action removes us from the ecclesiastical authority of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Georgia. This is necessary to protect and defend the Gospel of Christ in our congregation, and to stay faithful to our heritage as a Christian congregation and an Anglican parish. As you can see from the text of the resolution, we have been compelled to affirm clearly and faithfully the authority of Holy Scripture and the unique, divine saving mission of Jesus Christ. Enclosed also you will find a press release that provides helpful information.

We invite all voting members of Christ Church to express their agreement or disagreement with this action at the called Parish Meeting on Sunday, October 14th, at 11 a.m. (preceded by a joint service of worship at 9:15 a.m.) in the nave of the church. While our church polity does not require the congregation to ratify or affirm this resolution, we believe a vote is an important part of our on-going promise to engage the congregation at every major milestone of our journey together. This is an action of sober spiritual discernment, and we encourage you all to approach it prayerfully and peaceably with the Lord's greater glory in view. If you have any specific questions regarding this Parish Meeting, please ask a Vestry member. We will do all we can to address your concerns.

We can expect claims to be made on the property of Christ Church from the Diocese of Georgia and The Episcopal Church. Your Vestry is prepared to protect the property of our parish and defend it to the utmost against any action that seeks to take it from us. We have been a witness for the historic Christian faith on Johnson Square for almost 275 years. Christ Church precedes the founding of the Episcopal Church by over fifty years and the establishment of the Diocese of Georgia by nearly a century. We are confident, by God's grace, our witness will continue on our current site and facility for generations to come.

This resolution is the culmination of God's guidance through seven years of prayer, study, reflection, consultation, and solemn discussion. Christ Church remains where we have always been: a part of the biblical mission of Christ and its Anglican expression in Savannah. We join hundreds of other Anglican congregations across the country in a re-assertion of the Gospel that has the potential to ignite a new spiritual awakening in our country.

Be prayerful. Be loving. Stand firm with us in the hope of God's calling.

Faithfully,

The Vestry of Christ Church

Vestry Resolution

WHEREAS The Episcopal Church by word and deed has repudiated the authority and trustworthiness of Holy Scripture; and

WHEREAS The Episcopal Church upon request has refused repeatedly to affirm the authority and trustworthiness of Holy Scripture; and

WHEREAS The Episcopal Church no longer unequivocally affirms Jesus Christ as God's unique provision for the salvation of humankind; and

WHEREAS all the foregoing is contrary to the appeals and guidance of the Anglican Communion; and

WHEREAS the preamble to the Constitution of The Episcopal Church provides that it is a "constituent member of the Anglican Communion . . . upholding and propagating . . . the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer", upon which understanding The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Christ Church ("Christ Church") affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and the predecessor of The Episcopal Church;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Christ Church hereby recognizes The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia to have abandoned the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, and the historic Christian Faith as received; and in so doing has abandoned the communion previously existing between themselves and Christ Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Christ Church, in order to remain faithful to the Christian Faith and its Anglican and apostolic expression, does hereby place itself under the ecclesiastical authority of the Anglican Province of Uganda (Diocese of Soroti) until such time as a separate ecclesiastical structure of the Anglican Communion reflective of the Christian Faith and its Anglican expression is recognized as having been established in North America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we hereunto have set our hands and seals this _____ day of September, 2007.

_____L.S.	_____L.S.
Marcus B. Robertson, Rector	Francis Eugene Prevatt, Junior Warden
_____L.S.	_____L.S.
Stephen P. Dantin, Senior Warden	Don A. White, Jr., Clerk

[*more signatures on the following page*]

_____L.S.
Corley H. Nease

_____L.S.
Nancy L. Solana

_____L.S.
Michael T. Lee

_____L.S.
Samuel B. Adams

_____L.S.
George D. Hardison

_____L.S.
Bryan S. Creasy

_____L.S.
Cynthia M. Jones

_____L.S.
R. Clay Ratterree

_____L.S.
Thomas R. Cooper, Jr.

_____L.S.
Elizabeth M. Glass

_____L.S.
Carol Rogers Smith