

TITLE: P1-2024: Dissolution of Holy Spirit in Lake Almanor

We, the undersigned, being the Senior Warden and Treasurer of the Mission Committee, make the following petition based on the unanimous consent of the Mission Committee, which consists of 8 members:

PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION

This Petition of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Lake Almanor, California, is addressed to the Convention of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California, and represents the following:

1. Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Lake Almanor, was established as a parochial mission congregation of Good Shepherd, Susanville on October 15, 1982, by affirmation of the Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California. On November 7, 1986, Diocesan Convention voted to make the church a diocesan mission. Holy Spirit Mission moved to summer/seasonal chapel status in 2014.
2. Attendance peaked at 52. Membership now stands at 8 people, all of whom are over 80 years of age and most of whom are physically not able to come to the church or no longer keep a residence in the area.

3. History of the Mission

This mission had a faltering beginning in the spring of 1976 when Fr. Ralph Bowers from St. Paul's in Oroville began holding a 5pm holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church in Chester for several weeks. But due to many problems that became unfeasible.

In July of 1978, Fr. Max Nye and his wife Dena came to Lake Almanor with the intention of starting a mission at Lake Almanor. They held services at the home of Betty and Hank Currier and later with the assistance of Fr. Charles Poole, and approval of the Bishop, arrangements were made to meet in both Chester and Westwood Catholic Churches for regular services. Later, services were held at the Methodist Church in Chester.

In September of 1982, Fr. Max Nye accepted a call to Redding, CA. Fr. Harry Allagree came in April of 1983 and the congregation flourished under his leadership. At that time, we were a yoked parish with Susanville.

In the spring of 1984, the entire congregation, including children, unanimously chose the name, Holy Spirit Episcopal Mission. In June of 1985, two mission committees were set up due to the vastly different needs of the two parishes.

After some time, we separated from Susanville and became our own mission with part time priests. We were a very active group. And through the years, we have supported food shelves, Breakfast for Kids program for the elementary school in Westwood, and community dinners in this area. We did this because we have many poor families in Westwood and Chester who cannot earn enough to feed their families without help.

At one time we had a congregation of 52 adults and children. Our biggest problem was people moving out of this area to where there were more opportunities for work. As we aged, we also lost many members through death.

In 1987, we began holding a service at Chester Wesleyan church. In July we began worshipping in a building rented to us by Jan and Bud Bosworth in the Hamilton Branch. This was our church building until it was deconsecrated by Bishop Megan on July 11, 2021, and sold later that year. During this time, we had part time priests and often had two Holy Eucharist Services and two Evening or Morning Prayer services each month

In 2014, when our numbers got smaller, and when many of the people remaining began leaving for the winter, we went to a summer mission extending from May through mid-November. At 5000 ft elevation, it is often very difficult for those priests filling in to drive up in the snow, so this worked out well. Fr. Matt Warren began coming to us in November 2014 and continued serving us twice a month for an evening service. He accepted a call in another diocese and his last service with us was July 26, 2023.

After we completed closing the mission and giving our belongings to both a local church and the diocese, we had money left that belonged to the mission. At a short meeting, we decided to give that money to the three food banks in Westwood and Chester along with a \$1000 plus to the diocese for help with the fires. When we delivered the checks, each of the women running the food banks both gasped and were teary. They all told Holy Spirit that they couldn't believe this amazing gift which took away any worries about not having enough money to stay open or have enough food for those who needed it. We feel this is a closing act that fits our strong emphasis on community outreach.

4. Clergy Leadership History

2014 – 2023: The Rev. Matt Warren

2010 –2013: The Rev. Michael McCue

1996 –2009: The Rev. Linda T. Moore

1995: The Rev. Richard Duval

1994: John Wedgwood-Greenhow (Regional Missioner); The Rev. Richard Duval, Associate

1987 – 1993: The Rev. Douglass Bendall

1983 – 1986: The Rev. Harry Allagree

1978 – 1982: The Rev. Max Nye

1976: The Rev. Marvin Bowers

5. We have met as a house church for several years. Under the circumstances, we see no way forward for Holy Spirit to continue as an organized mission of the Diocese.

THEREFORE, we pray that the Diocesan Convention act by acclamation to order dissolution of the organized mission pursuant to Canon 30.12.

Date: 09/14/24

Janet Cox
Janet Cox (Sep 14, 2024 07:30 PDF), Bishop's Warden
Janet Cox

Date: 09/14/24

John Cox
John Cox (Sep 14, 2024 13:06 PDF), Treasurer
John Cox