



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Office of the Bishop

April 4, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today. Some of you may already be aware that on Saturday, we received, via several social media networks, an allegation from a man who reported that he had been sexually abused as a child by Mr. Dennis Siltman. Mr. Siltman currently serves as organist and choirmaster at St. Christopher, League City. The abuse is alleged to have taken place several decades ago and is not connected in any way to St. Christopher or to the Episcopal Church. We did not know about these allegations at the time of his hiring. It is also important to know that Mr. Siltman has not had any involvement in any children's ministry or children's music program at St. Christopher.

Within hours of receiving the allegation, the Rev. Brian Cannaday, rector of St. Christopher, reported the allegation to the appropriate law enforcement authorities, suspended Mr. Siltman for the duration of the investigation, and contacted me. Both he and I have assured law enforcement authorities of the church's full cooperation with their investigation.

In the Diocese of Texas, we take very seriously the responsibility to protect the children entrusted to our care. The Diocese's Safeguarding God's Children Program contains strict protocols that all churches and schools must follow, as well as mandatory training for employees and for all volunteers who work with or around children. The Rev. Canon Lisa Burns, Canon for Wellness and Care and Safeguarding Minister, leads a team of people who work to ensure that all of our ministries are safe places for children and other vulnerable people. As part of this commitment, we are very responsive to any allegation of abuse.

As always, anytime that you have concerns about possible Safeguarding violations, I invite you to be in touch with Canon Burns via our diocesan reporting hotline at report@epicenter.org. I also remind you that the law requires all of us to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of children to the police or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400 or online.

I invite your prayers for everyone concerned in this allegation and for all children who have ever been abused or harmed.

Faithfully yours,

C. Andrew Doyle, D.D.,
IX Bishop of Texas

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