

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Grace and St. Stephen's Parish Plans for Palm Sunday, Holy Week
Parish to Hold Sunday Services at Colorado College's Shove Chapel**

Members of Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church met in a packed auditorium at Colorado College on Wednesday evening to discuss how they will continue as a community following the announcement that former members of their vestry had voted to affiliate with a Nigerian bishop.

More than 100 people gathered, including former and current lay leadership, and members of the parish's staff, and were addressed by parishioners and by Bishop Robert O'Neill, Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado. Those gathered included clergy and staff members of Grace and St. Stephen's who will remain with the parish and the Episcopal Church, including the Rev. Michael O'Donnell, Associate Rector, the Rev. Sally Zeigler, Deacon, the Rev. Leroy Soper, retired Rector, and music director Deke Ploifka.

A Parish Committee was appointed to work during this interim period to continue the parish's worship, ministry and community life. The parish will hold Palm Sunday services at Shove Chapel on the Nevada Avenue side of the Colorado College campus, which two blocks north of the Grace and St. Stephen's buildings. Palm Sunday services will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, and the parish will worship at Shove Chapel until such time as it is restored to its property.

Rev. O'Donnell and Rev. Zeigler will assume pastoral responsibility for the parish temporarily, while the lay leadership works with Bishop O'Neill to find a priest-in-charge for the parish.

Many at the meeting expressed hope and optimism about their future. "The more than 100 people who gathered last night are full of hope for the future," said Tim Fuller, a professor at Colorado College, who is serving as a chair of the Parish Committee. "There was considerable unity of purpose and resolve to retain the parish, and to go forward."

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