GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

116 West Washington Avenue • Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 255-5147



May 3, 2006

Dear Fellow Members of Grace:

The Vestry, your elected lay leadership body at Grace Church, has received a copy of a Presentment and Inhibition served by the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee on the Rev. Martha Ann Englert dated April 29, 2006. In the Presentment, she has been charged with "conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy." The Bishop's inhibition in this case means that, although Martha remains rector of Grace Church, in the time leading up to and during trial in the Ecclesiastical Court, she has been prohibited from appearing in public as a priest of this church, performing any priestly ministrations, preaching, or communicating with the parishioners or staff of Grace Episcopal Church.

I remind all of you that the canons of the Episcopal Church call for a presumption of innocence in any such ecclesiastical trial. I reiterate that Martha Englert remains the Rector of Grace Church. Roman Shemayev remains as Associate Rector at Grace. Your wardens, vestry and church staff will work together with Roman to be certain the pastoral and worship needs of the congregation are met at this time, and members of the Diocese stand ready to assist us as well should we need it.

I hereby invite all members of Grace Church to attend a special assembly of Church members to take place at Grace Church on Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 7 PM to communicate sensitive matters important for members to know about this matter. Bishop Miller and members of the Diocese will be on hand, as will your wardens and vestry, to speak about the process and system in place in our diocese to deal with inquiries such as these, to speak to members of Grace about this matter and to answer your questions as best we can. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday and ask for your continued prayers for the well being of the entire Grace Church community.

Yours in Service to Grace,

Robert F. DeBroux Senior Warden