



The Diocese of Quincy

CENTER FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Anglican Church in North America

The Right Reverend J. Alberto Morales, OSB (Diocesan)

Saturday, May 14, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Pax!

Today several members of my clergy and I will be participating in the funeral service for the Rt. Rev. Edward H. MacBurney, Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy. The funeral service is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Davenport, Iowa, and the Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa, will preside.

I am aware that our decision to participate in this service may be surprising to some of my brothers and sisters in Christ, so I am writing this letter to clarify what is happening and my rationale for this decision.

First, what is happening. We will not be participating in the funeral service in a liturgical capacity. Bishop Monnot has invited me and the clergy of my diocese to attend as invited clergy. We will be wearing choir dress without stoles, and we will not be concelebrating. Despite the conflict between the ACNA and TEC, Bishop Monnot has graciously made this invitation out of respect for Bishop MacBurney and in honor of the tremendous love that many in the Diocese of Quincy still have for our former bishop. We will serve in the ways that Bishop Monnot has invited us to serve but not in an episcopal or priestly capacity. I am grateful to Bishop Monnot for the Christlike generosity and kindness she has shown throughout this process.

Second, my rationale. I loved Bishop MacBurney, as did many in my diocese, and we are blessed that Bishop MacBurney loved us too. More than once he communicated that he wanted me to be celebrant at his funeral. I continue to be humbled by this request. Our presence at his funeral and the ways in which we will serve are intended to honor the request of this man that we loved.

Others may not agree with my decision nor my rationale. To those who disagree, I have a request. Please do not use the funeral service of this beloved servant of Christ as an opportunity to sow dissension and division within Christ's body. We have already had enough of that for a lifetime.

Bishop Monnot and I have acted with charity in all our conversations. I have instructed my clergy to conduct themselves likewise at the funeral service. Today is not a day for division; it is a day to remember a great man who served the body of Christ for many decades. He was greatly loved by many in TEC and the ACNA, and so with Bishop Monnot we intend to honor our great friend.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. J. Alberto Morales, OSB
Quincy IX