



*the*  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*in* WESTERN OREGON

The Rt. Rev. Diana D. Akiyama, Bishop

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February 14, 2024

TO: 82<sup>nd</sup> Oregon Legislative assembly – 2024 Regular Session  
RE: Senate Concurrent Resolution 206

The Episcopal Church in Western Oregon (aka The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon) is grateful for the ministry of The Rev. Fred Heard. Fred served as the Vicar of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dallas, Oregon for the six years prior to his retirement from active ministry in 2022. During those six years, Fred's preaching, pastoral care and passion to foster connections across differences enriched not only the people of St. Thomas but the Diocese and the larger church as well. His intellectual curiosity always informed his faith; he seemed never to tire of new approaches to building and maintaining deep and meaningful human connections. It is clear, to those who knew him, that his entire life was preparing him for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Although I only knew him in the last three years of his life, I can well imagine with great confidence that his ordination to the priesthood was a spiritual culmination of a life of servanthood – as a loving husband and father, a teacher, an entrepreneur, a public servant and now as a priest. Fred was, is and will always be a priest, chosen of God, who served selflessly, lovingly and with deep and abiding faith. May he rest in peace and rise in Glory.

In Christ,



The Rt. Rev. Diana D. Akiyama  
Bishop

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