

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION - Proposed resolution on carrying weapons into property of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth Diocese

Author: Sandy Liser, Chancellor

Sponsor: Keen Haynes, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller

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Whereas under SB 535, which goes into effect on September 1, 2019, firearms can be carried legally at any church, synagogue, or other established place of worship in Texas;

Whereas the 77th General Convention in resolution 2012-D003 requested every parish and every diocesan place of work to declare their establishments as Gun Free Zones;

Whereas the members, parishioners and visitors to the facilities owned or controlled by the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth have a legitimate need and interest to be reasonably protected while in those facilities;

Be it resolved, by the 37th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, that the following policy shall be adopted:

1. It is not permissible for any person, except those specifically excluded in (3) below, to carry a firearm in the diocesan office, in any mission station, or at Camp Crucis.
2. This policy includes clergy, staff, students, volunteers and visitors, except those specifically excluded in (3) below.
3. This policy does not apply to the following persons:
 - a. A person with a valid and current Security Officer Commission as defined by the Texas Occupation Code Chapter 1702 and issued by the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas;
 - b. A peace officer who holds a permanent peace officer license issued under Texas Occupation Code Chapter 1701; or
 - c. A ranger or officer commissioned by the Texas Public Safety Commission and the Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.
4. The clergy and lay leadership of individual parishes, missions, schools and other Properties of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth are asked to prayerfully consider adopting the same or similar policy for their facilities.