NEWS RELEASE
The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

November 2, 2007

A Statement from the Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe
Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

I want to clarify recent news reports about what is occurring at Bethany Place, the home of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. Some of the information shared thus far has been misleading and, in some cases, inaccurate.

First, **suggestions made by the Kansas Preservation Alliance that Bethany Place is an "endangered property" are simply untrue**. This historic property, meticulously cared for by the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas for nearly 140 years, is not in need of outside protection.

Second, **this property is in our care as we continue to fulfill its original mission**. Since its early use as the College of the Sisters of Bethany to our present day as home to the Kansas School of Ministry, Bethany Place has been a center of education. We train lay and ordained leaders who are unable to travel to distant seminaries, so they can care for the poor, the sick and the friendless.

Third, **the diocese and Grace Cathedral together are constructing an environmentally sensitive 40-car parking lot** near the cathedral so elderly and disabled people can more easily get to church. That plan, by the way, was unanimously approved by the Topeka City Council. We are taking down some trees in the process, but we are planting more trees than we will remove.

And finally, **our work at Bethany Place benefits the Topeka community and beyond**. Bethany Place is home to the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, which ministers to thousands of Episcopalians from Independence to Atchison and from Kansas City to Abilene. We take pride in our history, and we care deeply about these buildings and these sacred grounds. That's why we've spent tens of thousands of dollars in the recent years on maintenance, remodeling and upkeep. And it's why we will continue to invest in its protection.

- 30 -