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March 28, 2008

By Facsimile (202-346-4444) And Mail

David Booth Beers, Esquire
Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop
Goodwin Proctor LLP
901 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Email dated March 25, 2008 to the House of Bishops from The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Dear Mr. Beers:

As you know from my letter dated March 14, 2008, this firm represents Bishop Robert W. Duncan, Jr. Having received no reply to that letter, I now write to express great concern over the March 25, 2008 e-mail that The Presiding Bishop apparently sent to the House of Bishops, a copy of which is available on www.standfirmfaith.com and is enclosed.

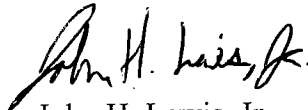
1. Bishop Duncan did not receive the e-mail. It appears that Bishop Duncan, Bishop Scriven, and Melanie Contz, executive assistant to Bishop Duncan, were removed from the e-mail list for the House of Bishops. Bishop Duncan and Bishop Scriven are members of the House of Bishops, and no Canon of The Episcopal Church permitted or allowed the deletion of their names. Their removal was improper, and I request an explanation for this action and their immediate restoration to the e-mail list. Similarly, there was no valid reason to remove Ms. Contz from the list.

2. The Presiding Bishop's e-mail states that "all relevant materials have been posted on the College of Bishops website" concerning the "issue" of Bishop Duncan. For the reasons set forth in my letter of March 14, there is no longer an "issue" relating to Bishop Duncan. In any event, fairness, due process and Christian charity require that the letter of Bishop Duncan dated March 14, 2008 and my letter to you of the same date also be posted. In addition, The Presiding Bishop's letter of March 14, 2008 (which concedes that there has been no unequivocal "Abandonment of Communion") should be posted. These letters are enclosed for your convenience.

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3. Finally, we are concerned with other events that appear to show the deliberate failure of The Presiding Bishop to follow the Canons. Canon IV.9.2., referring to the deposition of a Bishop for Abandonment of Communion, clearly requires a “majority of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote[.]” This is in contrast to Canon III.12.8(d), which allows the House of Bishops to consent to the resignation of a Bishop “by a majority of those present.” Not only is it clear from the Canons that deposition requires a majority of all voting members of the House of Bishops, it is also logical that a greater majority would be required for involuntary separation (deposition) than for voluntary separation (resignation). Nonetheless, The Presiding Bishop has purported to announce the “depositions” of both Bishop Schofield and Bishop Cox without the requisite “majority of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote.”

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Lewis, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John H. Lewis, Jr.

JHL:cdm
Enclosures



Traditional Anglicanism in America

Greg Griffith

Schori's Letter to Bishops Re September HoB Meeting

Via email:

March 25, 2008

For the House of Bishops

My brothers and sisters:

As discussed in our spring meeting, we will hold a special meeting of the House of Bishops 17– 19 September. We are exploring the possibilities of holding this meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, and will get back to you in the near future once the location is certain. The 16th is recommended as a travel day and the meeting will conclude at midday on the 19th. The main purpose of this meeting will be to reflect and deliberate together following the Lambeth Conference. I encourage you to be present for the entirety of the meeting as your voice and presence are needed and appreciated. Those bishops who will have been consecrated since our last spring meeting are encouraged to join us.

Concerning the issue of Bishop Duncan, all relevant materials have been posted on the College of Bishops website, including the Review Committee's certification and the two submissions the Committee reviewed. It does not include the exhibits to either submission, which are voluminous. If any of you wish to see them, you can contact David Beers or Mary Kostel. Regarding financial assistance for Lambeth, those who can assist are invited to send checks to my Discretionary Fund via Sharon Jones, and marked for Lambeth. Those in need are invited to contact our office for assistance. Companion diocese bishops are our second priority, and only after that will we send any excess to Lambeth itself.

We had mentioned the possibility of a one-day May meeting. I am not sure there was adequate desire for it on the part of the House at this point, and so this will be determined after a poll in April.

Again, more detailed information about the agenda, registration fee, and location of the September meeting will arrive in a future mailing to help you prepare for our time together.

Until then, I wish you every blessing in this Easter season.

Shalom,

Katharine Jefferts Schori

Posted March 25, 2008 at 5:09 pm

The URL for this article is <http://www.standfirminfaith.com/index.php/site/article/11223/>

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

The Rt. Rev. Robert Wm. Duncan
Bishop

14th March, A.D. 2008

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Katharine,

In response to the request set forth in your letter of January 15th (which enclosed the certification of the Title IV Review Committee), I state that I consider myself "fully subject to the doctrine, discipline and worship of this Church."

In particular:

1. I have striven to follow the Lord Jesus with all my heart and mind and soul and strength, all the while relying on God's grace to accomplish what my sinfulness and brokenness otherwise prevent.
2. I have kept my ordination vows – all of them – to the best of my ability, including the vow I made on 28 October 1972 to "banish and drive away all strange and erroneous doctrines contrary to God's Word."
3. I have preached and taught nothing but what faithful Anglicans and mainstream Christians have always preached and taught, with the exception only that I have supported and encouraged the ministry of women in Holy Orders.
4. I have been present to all but two meetings of the House of Bishops (out of twenty-four) during the last 12 years. In those meetings I have clearly and openly opposed the theological and moral drift of the Episcopal Church, often in the face of great hostility and sadly, at times, derision.
5. I have made no submission to any other authority or jurisdiction.
6. I have gathered Anglican fragments together from one hundred and thirty-five years of Episcopal Church division, vastly increasing understanding and cooperation, though preserving the jurisdictional independence of all.
7. I have, with the clergy, people and para-church organizations of my diocese, built missionary relationships all over the world, fielding both missionaries and resources on five continents.
8. I have faithfully served and shepherded the clergy and people of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh through what has, by God's grace, been one of its greatest periods of extension and blessing. My intention is to continue in this call for what remains of my active ministry.

Faithfully in Christ,

+ *Bob P. Hsberg*

One Church of Miraculous Expectation and Missionary Grace

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March 14, 2008

By Facsimile (202-346-4444) And Mail

David Booth Beers, Esquire
Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop
Goodwin Proctor LLP
901 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Re: **Letter dated January 15, 2008 to The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan, Jr. from
The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church**

Dear Mr. Beers:

Please be advised that this firm represents Bishop Robert W. Duncan, Jr. with respect to, inter alia, the letter (and enclosures) dated January 15, 2008 from The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church to Bishop Duncan. This letter will supplement the reply sent by Bishop Duncan today to The Presiding Bishop.

1. The letter from The Presiding Bishop requested that Bishop Duncan state that he "consider[ed] [himself] fully subject to the doctrine, discipline and worship of this Church". In his letter of reply, Bishop Duncan has provided such a statement. Accordingly, the matter has now been resolved, and we expect that there will be no further action with respect to the certification enclosed with the letter from The Presiding Bishop.
2. Moreover, Canon IV.9 does not permit submission of the certification to the House of Bishops. Section 2 of Canon 9, referring to submissions to the House of Bishops, specifically refers to an "inhibited Bishop" (emphasis added).
3. An additional reason that the certification should not be submitted to the House of Bishops is that the certification is based upon the same kind of allegations that the Review Committee previously found insufficient in the first proceeding against Bishop Schofield.
4. With respect to proceedings before the Review Committee, Bishop Duncan reserves his right to determine if a violation of Canon IV.14 (Section 9) has occurred.

David Booth Beers, Esquire
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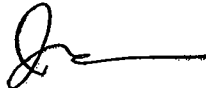
5. Even if referral of this matter to the House of Bishops is permitted by the Canons (which it is not):

A) Canon IV.9 requires the House of Bishops "to investigate the matter." That provision, together with fundamental due process, require that Bishop Duncan (or his representative) be given a hearing by the House of Bishops, including the right to present evidence and witnesses.

B) Bishop Duncan reserves the right to ask that any member of the House of Bishops be disqualified pursuant to Canon IV.14 (Section 13A).

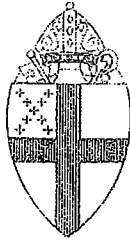
6. To the extent matters have been concealed from Bishop Duncan or there has been bad faith, Bishop Duncan reserves his rights.

Very truly yours,



John H. Lewis, Jr.

JHL:cdm



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate

March 14, 2008

The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan
900 Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Bob,

I look forward to receiving the letter you have promised concerning the findings of the Title IV Review Committee. I need to tell you that the House of Bishops discussed your situation, and plans to address the matter further either at a special meeting in May or at the meeting which will be held in September (which was confirmed at our meeting just concluded). A decision about a May meeting will be made in early April, once the House has had an opportunity to review the Title IV materials and reflect on them.

I want to let you know that this meeting was characterized by challenging yet immensely gracious conversation about several difficult issues. We were sorry you were not part of the conversation.

As the future unfolds, particularly in regard to the matters of ecclesiology before us, I would encourage you to clarify your own position – either that you intend to leave this Church, or that you intend to stay. I believe that your continued uncertainty only serves to perpetuate and exacerbate the difficult situation which members of The Episcopal Church are experiencing in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. If you intend to depart, it would be far the more honorable course to say so publicly and unequivocally, resign your jurisdiction, and seek to be released from your vows. You would then be free to follow your conscience wherever it leads you. If you intend to stay and are able to be public and unequivocal about that, I believe you would find a much expanded willingness and intent to make a space for a wide variety of theological positions within this Church. The bishops are particularly amenable to a profound, open, honest, and earnest attempt at reconciliation.

You continue in my prayers. I remain

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER