

August 31, 2023

Dear Colleagues in the House of Bishops,

We are aware of several recent high profile cases in which bishops were accused of improper behavior, and many in the church believe those bishops received few or no consequences.

We are angered by and deeply concerned about the perception – or the reality – that bishops get a free pass on behavioral issues. We believe our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being requires us to protect every person from harm in Jesus’s church. We want to ensure that in our system, issues like these are taken seriously and treated appropriately. Bishops cannot be allowed to have a “free pass.”

We are glad the church has already taken one positive step in the past few months, which is to hire an independent Episcopal Church Intake Officer for Bishops. This is a good first step in addressing the perception that as bishops we are not held accountable for our behavior.

We ask that time be set aside at the upcoming House of Bishops meeting to candidly discuss these concerns and review our disciplinary canons. We hope to develop a healthy way forward that will bring us into better relationship with one another, and restore trust in the office of bishop for our whole church.

In Christ’s Name,

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, California

The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby, El Camino Real

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Indianapolis

The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, Navajoland

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Eastern Oregon

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, Maine

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Glenda Curry, Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, Texas

The Rt. Rev. De De Duncan Probe, Central New York

The Rt. Rev. Mark Edington, Convocation of the Churches in Europe

The Rt. Rev. Jonathan Folts, South Dakota

The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Bonforte Gardner, Nevada

The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, New York

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez, Pennsylvania

The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Missouri

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue, Georgia

The Rt. Rev. Justin Holcomb, Central Florida

The Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes, Newark

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn, Rio Grando

The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, Alaska

The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Minnesota

The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas, Colorado

The Rt. Rev. Shannon McVean-Brown, Vermont

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello, Connecticut

The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry, Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, Arizona

The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, Spokane

The Rt. Rev. David Rice, San Joaquin

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf, West Tennessee

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York

The Rt. Rev. Phyllis Spiegel, Utah

The Rt. Rev. Mary Stebbins, Montana

The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, retired

The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan, Texas

The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Central Pennsylvania

The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook, San Diego

The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan, Idaho

The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair, Northern California

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, South Carolina The Rt. Rev. Bob Fitzpatrick, Hawaii

The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, Atlanta