



**IN RE TITLE IV DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

June 7, 2024

TO: The Hearing Panel for Bishops

FR: The Reference Panel for Bishops

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Presiding Bishop-Designate  
The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, President of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops  
The Rev. Barbara Kempf, Intake Officer for Bishops

Re: Title IV matter involving allegations of allegations of discrimination against  
the Rt. Rev. S. Johnson Howard

On July 24, 2023, the Intake Officer received information suggesting that Bishop Howard may have committed Offenses under Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The Intake Officer prepared an Intake Report and delivered it to the Reference Panel on October 19, 2023, pursuant to Canon IV.6.4. On November 9, 2023, the Reference Panel referred the matter for Investigation pursuant to Canon IV.6.8(c). Having reviewed the report of the Investigator, the Reference Panel has decided to refer the matter directly to the Hearing Panel for Bishops pursuant to Canon IV.11.3(e). Pursuant to Canon IV.13.2, the Church Attorney will provide to the Hearing Panel a written statement describing the alleged Offenses.

*The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely*

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely  
President, Disciplinary Board for Bishops  
[electronic signature by permission]

cc: J.B. Burtch, Esq., Counsel for Disciplinary Board for Bishops  
Craig Merritt, Esq., Church Attorney  
[REDACTED], Complainant  
[REDACTED], Advisor to Complainant  
The Rt. Rev. S. Johnson Howard, Respondent  
The Rt. Rev. Douglas E. Sparks, Advisor to Respondent  
Steven Busey, Esq., Counsel for Respondent