



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

4800 Six Forks Rd, Suite 300, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609 Telephone 919-834-7474 800-448-8775

October 23, 2024

### **Via Email**

The Rt. Rev. S. Johnson Howard  
[Redacted]

The Rt. Rev. Douglas E. Sparks  
117 N. Lafayette Boulevard  
South Bend, Indiana 46601  
[bishop.sparks@ednin.org](mailto:bishop.sparks@ednin.org)

Stephen D. Busey, Esq.  
Smith Hulsey & Busey  
[Redacted]  
[busey@smithhulsey.com](mailto:busey@smithhulsey.com)

Craig Merritt, Esq.  
Merritt Hill, PLLC  
919 East Main Street  
Suite 1000  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[cmerritt@merrittfirm.com](mailto:cmerritt@merrittfirm.com)

Re: The Episcopal Church v. The Right Rev. S. Johnson Howard (financial allegations)

Gentlemen:

By my calculation, the time for you each to provide Mandatory Disclosures expires on October 18, 2024. The Canons provide that within 15 days of that time, I am to schedule a conference with you both to issue a Scheduling Order. Title IV. 13.5(c).

Assuming you have completed your disclosures, please meet and confer before November 1, 2024 and provide to me an agreed upon proposed Scheduling Order. If you cannot agree, then please advise, in one letter, where you differ. If the Scheduling Order meets with my approval and there are no disagreements, subject to your consent, there

will be no need for a Conference. However, if there are differences, then provide times during the week of November 4, 2024, when you are available to have a brief conference, so that I may hear your respective positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Brooke-Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first letter.

The Right Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson  
President

cc: Diane Sammons, Esq.