

Email on July 25, 2023 from the Church Attorney to the Hearing Panel, *et als.*

Subject: Title IV Matter of the Reverend Dr. B. Cayce Ramey

Members of the Hearing Panel:

This is a Canon IV.13.7 motion.

In the “Prefatory Statement” portion of his Response to Statement of the Church Attorney, the Respondent articulates in detail what he calls his “decision for voluntary excommunication” and that he has neither received nor celebrated Holy Communion. These are the matters at the heart of this case, and until the “Prefatory Statement” the Church Attorney had not seem such a statement of the Respondent’s position, in his own words.

This gives rise to an additional Title IV Offense: “holding and teaching publicly or privately, and advisedly, any Doctrine contrary to that held by the Church,” as set forth in Canon IV.4.1(h)(2). “Doctrine” is defined in Canon IV.2 as “the basic and essential teachings of the Church and is to be found in the Canon of the Holy Scripture as understood in the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and in the sacramental rites, the Ordinal and Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer”. Of particular importance in this context is the reference to the Catechism. On page 856 of the Book of Common Prayer, the question posed is “What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?” The answer is, among other things, “to administer the sacraments,” one of which is the Holy Eucharist, as set forth three pages later in the Catechism, on pages 859-60 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Church Attorney believes, that for this case to be complete, violation of Canon IV.4.1(h)(2) should be added to paragraph 3 of his Statement of Alleged Offenses. That could be accomplished by a simple addition and filing of an Amended Statement of Alleged Offenses. The Church Attorney accordingly seeks leave of the Hearing Panel to make that amendment.

The proposed amendment will not delay this proceeding. The time for the mandatory disclosures required by Canon IV.13.5(a) has not run. There has been no discovery and no Canon IV.13.5(c) scheduling conference. No hearing date has been set.

It is in the interest of what is referred to in secular courts as “judicial economy” for the Canon IV..4.1(h)(2) Offense to be considered and resolved by this Hearing Panel in this case. The alternative is for another complaint to be filed, followed by the Intake, Investigation, Reference Panel and other procedures required by Title IV. The Church Attorney submits that that scenario is in no one’s interest.

Bradfute W. Davenport, Jr.