

IN THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA
BEFORE A HEARING PANEL
IN THE TITLE IV MATTER OF
THE REVEREND DR. B. CAYCE RAMEY, RESPONDENT

To: The Rev. Dr. B. Cayce Ramey, Respondent
The Rev. Edward O. Miller, Jr. Respondent's Advisor
Jack W. Burch, Jr. Esquire, Counsel to Respondent
Bradfute W. Davenport, Jr., Esquire, Church Attorney
The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Complainant

**ORDER ON CHURCH ATTORNEY'S
MOTION FOR SANCTIONS**

The Church Attorney on November 6, 2023, filed a Motion for Sanctions (hereinafter MOTION) with an Exhibit A (hereinafter EXHIBIT). Respondent's Counsel on November 16, 2023, filed a Response to Motion for Sanctions (hereinafter RESPONSE), and the Church Attorney on November 24, 2023, filed a Surreply to Respondent's Response to Motion for Sanctions with Exhibits (hereinafter SURREPLY). A hearing before the Hearing Panel (hereinafter PANEL) was held on November 29, 2023, at which the Church Attorney and Respondent's Counsel spoke to the MOTION, EXHIBIT, RESPONSE, and SURREPLY, and answered questions from the PANEL. Having considered the MOTION, EXHIBIT, RESPONSE, SURREPLY, and arguments made at the hearing, and having deliberated fully, the PANEL made its determination to issue the following ORDER.

ORDER

1. The PANEL finds that the Respondent violated Title IV.13.11(a) to at least the extent of committing conduct "contrary to the integrity of the proceedings." The PANEL accordingly grants the MOTION.

2. The EXHIBIT is copies of three emails, dated August 15, 2023, September 23, 2023, and October 31, 2023. The September 23, 2023, email, which was sent by the Respondent to both Clergy and Laity includes the statement that addressees “. . . are under no obligation to speak with [the Church Attorney] or to not speak with him either way.” These facts have not been disputed.
3. By writing to Clergy that they “are under no obligation to speak with . . .” the Church Attorney, the PANEL finds the Respondent advised in contradiction to Title IV.3.1(b) that commands Clergy “. . . shall be subject to proceedings under this Title for . . . failing without good cause to cooperate with any investigation or proceeding conducted under authority of this Title.” The PANEL understands Title IV investigations and proceedings to include the Church Attorney’s preparations for Panel hearings. In support of these findings the PANEL in part relies on the duties and responsibilities of Clergy as directed in Title IV to diligently cooperate in Title IV investigations and proceedings even before a matter is instituted as directed by Title IV.4.1(f) that commands Clergy “. . . shall. . . report to the Intake Officer all matters which may constitute an Offense. . .” Further the PANEL relies on Title IV.19.1 that specifies:

Proceedings under this Title are neither civil nor criminal but ecclesiastical in nature. These proceedings represent the responsibility of the Church to determine who shall serve as Members of the Clergy of the Church, reflecting the polity and order of this hierarchical church. Members of the Clergy have voluntarily sought and accepted positions in the Church and have thereby given their consent to subject themselves to the Discipline of the Church. They may not claim in proceedings under this Title constitutional guarantees otherwise associated with secular court proceedings.

4. By writing to Laity that they “are under no obligation to speak with . . .” the Church Attorney, the PANEL further finds the Respondent, as Clergy, advised in contradiction to his responsibilities under Title IV.3.1(b) commanding Clergy “. . . shall be subject to proceedings under this Title for . . . failing without good cause to cooperate with any investigation or proceeding conducted under authority of this Title.” In support of this finding the PANEL again relies on the extent of duties and responsibilities of Clergy as specified in Title IV.4.1(f) and Title IV.19.1 to support and

cooperate in Title IV investigations, including during the Church Attorney preparations for Panel hearings, and proceedings.

CORRECTIVE SANCTIONS

The PANEL, having fully considered the MOTION, EXHIBIT, RESPONSE, and SURREPLY, and arguments made at the hearing, and having deliberated fully orders the following corrective sanctions.

1. No later than fifteen days from receipt of this Order by email, the Respondent is to send to all persons to whom he sent the September 23, 2023, email an amended and corrected communication as to the Title IV stated obligation to cooperatively communicate with the Church Attorney. A copy of the amended and corrected communication is to be sent to the Church Attorney and Respondent's Counsel prior to being sent to all persons to whom the September 23, 2023, was sent.
2. No later than fifteen days from receipt of this Order by email, the Respondent is to send to the Church Attorney and Respondent's Counsel the names and communications addresses of all Clergy persons to whom the September 23, 2023, email was sent.
3. The Respondent is to cease and desist from all communications with anyone that in any way advises, implies, or suggests that they need not speak with the Church Attorney, or need not appear, testify, or respond at any hearing for this matter, unless excused by the Panel.
4. When Respondent's Counsel in compliance with Title IV.13.9 identifies the names of both Clergy and Lay expected witnesses to be called to testify at the hearing, all those named as expected witnesses who were sent the September 23, 2023, portion of the EXHIBIT are to be identified as such persons to both the PANEL and the Church Attorney.

Dated:

December 4, 2023



Brian Carr, President
Hearing Panel of the
Diocese of Virginia