THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA HEARING PANEL IN THE TITLE IV MATTER OF THE REVEREND DR. B. CAYCE RAMEY VIDEOCONFERENCE HEARING BEFORE BRIAN CARR, HEARING PANEL PRESIDENT REVEREND CRYSTAL HARDIN **REVEREND HERBERT JONES** November 29, 2023 HALASZ REPORTING & VIDEO 1011 E. Main Street, Suite 100 Richmond, Virginia 23219 www.HalaszReporting.com (804)708-0025 Reported by: Lori McCoin Jones, RPR, CCR 

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1 Videoconference hearing, taken by Lori McCoin 2 Jones, RPR, CCR, Electronic Notary Public in and for the 3 Commonwealth of Virginia, commencing at 10:07 a.m., November 29, 2023. 4 5 6 Appearances: 7 BURTCH LAW 8 JACK W. JB BURTCH, JR., ESQ. attorney, of counsel for Respondent 9 (1802 Bayberry Court, Suite 302 Richmond, Virginia 23226 ) 10 Jb@burtchlaw.com 11 BRADFORD W. DAVENPORT, JR., ESQ. 12 attorney, of counsel for the Church (6134 St. Andrews Lane 13 Richmond, Virginia 23226) Davenportbw@gmail.com 14 15 16 Also present: 17 Thomas Hahn, Esq, Hearing Panel Advisor 18 J. P. Causey, Esq. Reverend Ed Miller 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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1 (Proceedings began at 10:07 a.m.) 2 PRESIDENT CARR: Good morning, everyone. 3 MR. DAVENPORT: Good morning. 4 MR. BURTCH: Good morning. 5 PRESIDENT CARR: So I see that we have Mr. Burtch and Mr. Davenport, and I heard you both 6 7 say good morning, and I am assuming you can both hear 8 me. 9 MR. DAVENPORT: Yes. 10 MR. BURTCH: Yes, we can. 11 PRESIDENT CARR: Very good. 12 And I see that we have J. P. Causey coming on 13 and Ed Miller and they're both muted. 14 And we have our court reporter, Lori, here as 15 well. To Mr. Davenport and Mr. Burtch, any procedural 16 17 questions or anything prior to starting? 18 MR. DAVENPORT: None for me. 19 I don't have any. MR. BURTCH: 20 PRESIDENT CARR: Well, you each have thirty 21 If you would like to reserve some of that minutes. 22 time for rebuttal, let me know at the start of your 23 thirty minutes. 24 And Mr. Davenport has the floor to go first and 25 so you may begin at any time.

1 Thank you, Mr. President. MR. DAVENPORT: 2 I think the issues are fairly and thoroughly 3 presented by the briefs, so my intention is to answer 4 questions for the panel and to reserve my time for 5 rebuttal. PRESIDENT CARR: Right. So who of us has the 6 7 first question? REVEREND JONES: Crystal, do you want to go 8 ahead? 9 10 Let me try to -- well, I'll go. 11 So I see a distinction between the duty of 12 clergy and the duty of laypeople in -- in the entire 13 issue. Can you speak to that? If one of the -- if 14 one of the things that you're asking for is to reveal 15 all of the people that have been -- were copied on the e-mail, that would include -- will that include 16 17 laypeople and clergy people, and do we presume clergy 18 people are persons on the list that received that 19 e-mail? 20 MR. DAVENPORT: Yes, there is a distinction. 21 The duty -- clergy have a clear duty to 22 cooperate in the proceeding. 23 Everybody at church has a duty to testify and 24 so forth at the hearing. And as I said in my reply 25 brief, we haven't gotten to that point yet.

1 But I do think that it's reasonable to assume 2 that if the respondent is willing to send out what he 3 did in connection with the proceeding, he would do 4 the same thing, and maybe already has, with respect 5 to the trial as the hearing. But you're right, we haven't gotten there yet, and that wouldn't happen 6 unless and until a notice of a hearing has issued. 7 So I agree with you. There's a distinction 8 9 there. And is it kind of a legal -- I 10 REVEREND JONES: 11 mean if the -- to say that he would -- it necessarily 12 would go -- in the future go toward -- go to 13 laypeople and not clergy, I mean if we -- well, as I 14 understand it, that was a footnote and you did mention that we're talking the difference between, I 15 think, 3.1(b) and 13.11 and -- or 19.18. 16 17 MR. DAVENPORT: Yes. Yes. 18 So we're really -- it seems to me **REVEREND:** 19 that the focus is on 3.1(b) as far as clergy, and 20 that's the duty that you, and I think -- I suppose 21 argue or have argued has been tampered with. 22 MR. DAVENPORT: Yeah. I mean I agree. That's 23 what's ripe today. 24 **REVEREND JONES:** Right. 25 MR. DAVENPORT: The other one is -- we're not

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1 there yet, but we may get there. 2 REVEREND HARDIN: I have a question for you, 3 Mr. Davenport. 4 So is it -- am I understanding correctly that 5 it's your understanding of the Canons that anyone contacted by you -- any clergy, let's narrow it to 6 clergy because I think there is a distinction, but 7 please correct me if I'm wrong. 8 9 Is it your understanding that any contacted --10 any clergy person contacted by you about this case 11 has the duty to communicate with you? 12 MR. DAVENPORT: Yes. 13 **REVEREND HARDIN:** And does that change being 14 that you're officially, according to my reading of 15 the Canons, a party to the case at this point? Does that change anything at all, the fact that you're a 16 17 party? 18 MR. DAVENPORT: I don't think so. No. 19 I'll ask this to PRESIDENT CARR: 20 Mr. Davenport. 21 In your request for the sanctions, you included 22 wanting to know everyone that was spoken to and what 23 was said from the respondent. Are you extending that 24 to both laity and clergy or just to clergy? 25 MR. DAVENPORT: Well, at this point, I quess I

1	should say just to clergy because we haven't gotten
2	to notice of a hearing yet. So correct, I'm limiting
3	that to clergy at this point.
4	PRESIDENT CARR: Okay.
5	REVEREND HARDIN: Another question for you is
6	the more general or more generally, the violation
7	of Canon IV.13.11, so conduct that's disruptive or
8	otherwise contrary to the integrity of the
9	proceedings, are you are there allegations beyond
10	the paragraph telling clergy that they can't
11	communicate or they can or don't have to or it's up
12	to them whether they communicate? Is there anything
13	beyond that specific paragraph that you feel like
14	violates the integrity of the proceedings?
15	MR. DAVENPORT: No.
16	REVEREND HARDIN: Like what is the greater
17	allegation, I guess is the question.
18	MR. DAVENPORT: No. It's limited to that.
19	REVEREND HARDIN: It is? Okay.
20	REVEREND JONES: I don't have any more
21	questions.
22	PRESIDENT CARR: Let me check my notes.
23	So, Mr. Davenport, let me ask you this: I
24	believe in the response, the respondent's response,
25	he asserts that the duty to cooperate is limited only

1 to official requests for depositions and official 2 requests to appear. Is your position consistent with 3 that or is your position that duty to cooperate is 4 broader than that? 5 MR. DAVENPORT: Certainly, yes. Broader than that. 6 Yes. PRESIDENT CARR: 7 Can you elaborate on that? Does that mean just, you know, if you were to call 8 9 somebody up by phone, they have an obligation to talk 10 to you about the case or answer questions or 11 anything? 12 If it's clergy, I think MR. DAVENPORT: Yes. 13 so because they have a duty to cooperate with me. 14 Which, you know, we -- I'm limited to two 15 depositions. I have no idea how many clergy that notice was sent to or e-mail was sent to. 16 But you 17 don't take a deposition if you don't need to. But I 18 think, yes, clergy have an obligation to take my call 19 I think that's what -and answer my questions. 20 that's what distinguishes this situation from a 21 normal civil case where potential witnesses don't 22 have the obligation like this. General Convention 23 has been at pains to tell clergy in that Canon that 24 they have a duty to cooperate. 25 **REVEREND HARDIN:** Does that same duty that you

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1 just articulated also apply to Mr. Burtch if he were 2 to call a clergy person? 3 MR. DAVENPORT: Yeah. Two-way street. 4 **REVEREND HARDIN:** Okav. 5 PRESIDENT CARR: Do you have any thoughts on how that duty applies to a layperson that has 6 knowledge of the situation? 7 Well, by its terms, that Canon MR. DAVENPORT: 8 9 doesn't apply to laypersons. It only applies to 10 So I would think that a -- no, a layperson clergy. 11 would not have a duty at all other than the one in 12 19.18 which applies to all members of the church to 13 testify and appear and so forth at the -- if they're 14 noticed, at the hearing. That applies to laypeople 15 and clergy. 16 PRESIDENT CARR: Okay. 17 Crystal or Herbert, did either of you have any 18 additional questions at this point? 19 **REVEREND JONES:** No. 20 REVEREND HARDIN: I have one more. Is there any reason to believe that there are communications 21 22 of this nature still out there or -- I mean is there 23 reason to believe other than there may or may not be 24 but I need to know or do we -- do we have reason to 25 believe that this has been communicated in other ways

1 in other places to clergy? The only thing I know is what's 2 MR. DAVENPORT: 3 in that e-mail. 4 PRESIDENT CARR: So, then, are you looking to 5 potentially reopen discovery? MR. DAVENPORT: 6 Potentially, yes. 7 **REVEREND** JONES: What would -- you've heard the questions we're asking. What -- when you asked for 8 9 the resolution, what sanctions specifically are you 10 thinking would be most appropriate if we did find 11 that this was a violation or this was sanctionable? 12 To identify -- for the MR. DAVENPORT: 13 respondent to identify who got that e-mail. If you 14 limit it to clergy, then the clergy that got that e-mail and communications he's had with those clergy, 15 and for him then to tell them, give them a correct 16 17 reading of what the Canons require, not the reading 18 that he gave. 19 REVEREND JONES: Anything else you'd be asking 20 for? 21 I think it's spelled out MR. DAVENPORT: No. 22 in paragraph 8 of my sanctions motion. Yeah. 23 **REVEREND JONES:** Thank you. 24 PRESIDENT CARR: Okay. Any additional 25 questions from the panel?

1 If not, then I think we will reserve 2 Mr. Davenport's remaining time and move over to 3 Mr. Burtch. 4 MR. BURTCH: Thank you very much. 5 I'd like to reserve any time that I don't use in this short presentation I'm going to make for any 6 questions that the hearing panel may have. 7 It seems to me that the issue before the 8 9 hearing panel is actually a simple one, did the respondent violate Title IV when he told the group of 10 11 friends, some of whom were members of the clergy, 12 they could speak or not speak as they wished with the 13 church attorney in his capacity as the representative 14 of one party before the hearing panel. 15 Now I think, as has already been discussed, that for lay members of the church, the answer is 16 17 obvious, their only duty is to appear and testify or 18 respond when duly served by notice from the panel. 19 And, of course, as of right now, no person has been served or noticed. And so as directed to the lay 20 21 members, respondent's statement neither suggests nor 22 implies that they should refuse to testify when duly 23 served. 24

Now clergy are under this same obligation, and
so nothing suggests that they would do anything other

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1 than appear and testify when duly served. And as has 2 already been discussed, under the Canons, clergy have 3 an additional obligation. Clergy have the obligation 4 to cooperate with any investigation or proceeding 5 conducted under the authority of this Title.

Now, when respondent sent his e-mail, the two
investigations were totally complete. And there is
no claim that any person has failed to cooperate with
either investigation or in any investigative process.

10 So the crux of the church attorney's argument 11 is that respondent's e-mail encouraged some clergy 12 not to cooperate with the proceeding under Title IV. 13 Again, there is no claim that any person has failed 14 or refused to cooperate here.

And the investigation stage being complete, this case is now at a different point. It's now before the hearing panel. And respondent wrote his e-mail when the case was already before the hearing panel, and the Canon does not define what cooperate means at this stage of the proceedings.

But what is clear is that the role of the church attorney changes once a case comes before the hearing panel. Canon IV.13.6 provides that at this point of the proceedings, the church attorney represents the diocese, the party on one side, and

1 the respondent is the party on the other side. So
2 the question narrows, does the Canon impose a duty on
3 members of the clergy to speak or provide information
4 to the church attorney as the representative of one
5 party in the matter before the hearing panel.

The only requirement in the Canons is that they 6 7 appear and testify upon notice and that they cooperate in the investigations which have been 8 There is no provision that requires them 9 completed. 10 to participate in the preparation of the church 11 attorney's case against the respondent. Here the 12 church attorney is counsel to one side. The church attorney is not a neutral party. 13

14 I think, there being a lot of lawyers in the 15 room, that it's agreed that it's a general -generally accepted principle in American law that it 16 17 is proper for one side -- for one side of a case to 18 try to talk with a potential witness before a case 19 comes to a hearing, but the potential witness, not 20 being subject to any subpoena or notice, has a 21 corresponding right not to speak with them. The 22 choice to speak or not to speak is entirely up to the 23 potential witness.

Now this general principle is not articulatedin the Canons of our church, but the only duty that

1 the Canons impose on clergy when a case is before the 2 hearing panel -- and that's the point I want to make, 3 the case is at a different status. It's not an 4 investigation. It's now before a hearing panel. And 5 the duty that's imposed when a case is before a hearing panel is that they must appear and testify 6 7 upon proper notice.

Prior to a matter being referred to the hearing 8 9 panel, members of the clergy must cooperate in 10 investigations. But at the hearing panel stage, 11 clergy only need appear when noticed. No other 12 duties are mandated or even reasonably implied under 13 the Canons. So cooperation in this context means 14 doing those things the Canons require. Nowhere does 15 a Canon require a potential witness, whether lay or clergy, to make themselves available to answer 16 17 questions from lawyers representing parties except 18 when duty noticed.

Now the church attorney has accused the respondent of witness tampering and behavior which is disruptive, dilatory, or otherwise contrary to the integrity of these proceedings. And the church attorney has been unable to offer a single example of any harm to this process. And the church attorney's argument is without basis in the Canons themselves.

1 And in a footnote, as he already has said, the 2 church attorney admits that Canon IV.19.18, the duty 3 to appear and testify when noticed, has not even been 4 triggered yet. But, amazingly, the church 5 attorney -- and he repeated here -- repeated this here this morning -- has said that the hearing panel 6 can reasonably anticipate that respondent will repeat 7 his erroneous advice to members of the church who are 8 9 served with notices to appear and testify.

Here the church attorney's argument acuses the respondent of doing something that is obviously improper, obviously contrary to the Canons and without -- and there is absolutely no basis in fact for him to make such an accusation or suggestion. Nothing respondent has said or did violates the Canons in any way.

17 To subject the respondent to sanctions requires 18 that somehow respondent crossed a clear line and 19 engaged in clearly improper conduct, but this motion 20 for sanctions relies solely on ambiguities, 21 assumptions, inferences, and speculation. No party 22 of this proceeding has been damaged in any way by 23 what the respondent said or did. No witness has 24 failed to do their duty under the Canons. 25 I think it's been clear from the papers that

1 I've filed and the argument I'm trying to make here that nothing in our Canons supports this motion for 2 3 sanctions. There is no clear crossing of any line 4 and no person has been encouraged to do anything 5 improper. There is no sanctionable conduct here. If the -- if the worst thing respondent did was 6 7 to incorrectly read the Canons contrary to how a hearing panel or any other person may interpret them, 8 9 the worst thing the respondent did was to be confused 10 in ambiguity. Now I've tried to argue that it's not 11 I do not believe it's ambiguous, but ambiquous. 12 there is more than one opinion on how Canons should 13 be interpreted. 14 And I think in this case there is no basis for 15 sanctions based on what respondent actually said. And, therefore, we ask that the hearing panel deny 16 17 the motion. 18 Thank you. I'll be happy to answer any 19 questions. 20 **REVEREND** JONES: I have a question. 21 MR. BURTCH: Yes. 22 **REVEREND JONES:** Is it your contention that now 23 that the discovery date has passed that the church 24 attorney is prohibited in any way from continuing to 25 investigate the case that he brings before the panel?

1 MR. BURTCH: The church attorney is not 2 inhibited from investigating in any way he wants with 3 the understanding that he is then acting, as the 4 Canons provide, as a representative of one of two 5 parties. So he is limited to what is proper for one 6 party to do.

I do not believe he enjoys the privilege which 7 is set out earlier in the Canons in terms of the 8 9 church attorney's -- so the church attorney has a 10 sort of a supervisory role prior to the reference to 11 a hearing panel over investigations. The counsel for 12 the respondent does not have a corresponding role. 13 So I think it would be highly improper for the church 14 attorney representing a party in a -- I'm not going to use the word adversarial because the Canons and 15 the spirit of the Canons don't support that, but it's 16 17 a contested proceeding. So I think that role ceases 18 when the church attorney becomes counsel.

19REVEREND HARDIN: I have a question or maybe20just -- just want your thoughts about this.

So you're making a distinction between clergy accountability at the investigatory stage to answer questions, communicate with the church attorney, and clergy's accountability at the hearing panel stage because Mr. Davenport becomes a party to the

1	proceeding. But well, and, my or my looking at
2	the Canons is that what we're talking about Canon
3	III, or Canon IV.3, that comes right after
4	terminology, right?
5	MR. BURTCH: Right.
6	REVEREND HARDIN: So it's of terminology and
7	then it's of accountability, and then there are
8	distinct sections for conference panel hearing
9	panel's investigation. So it seems to me that
10	that standards of conduct and accountability that
11	appear before it are broader than what comes after
12	where we're sort of channelling down into the
13	different sections of proceedings. So I'm having a
14	hard time understanding why what we set out as
15	canonical accountability wouldn't apply to a hearing
16	panel the same way that it would apply to an
17	investigation.
18	MR. BURTCH: Well, I think that what happens is
19	that the role of the church attorney changes.
20	Because clearly the counsel to the respondent does
21	not have the same authority and the scope of
22	authority under the Canons as the church attorney
23	does at the investigative stage. So if if the
24	church attorney's authority were to continue
25	subsequent to a case being referred to the hearing

1	panel, and the hearing panel and becoming counsel
2	to a party before the hearing panel, then plainly
3	that would by a lopsided and unfair proceeding
4	because the church attorney would have much more
5	scope than the respondent's attorney would have.
6	REVEREND JONES: So if you were to find
7	additional were brought additional information,
8	you would be able to investigate that and act upon it
9	if it was if you deemed it to be germane. Does
10	that does the church attorney not have that same
11	ability?
12	MR. BURTCH: Well, certainly he does.
13	Certainly he does in preparing his case for his
14	client before this proceeding, but he doesn't have
15	you know, to fail to refuse to speak to the church
16	attorney when he is preparing his case for the
17	hearing panel is not a violation of Canon because
18	there is no duty, either upon laypeople or clergy, at
19	that point. Their duty is set out in the Canon which
20	is to appear and testify when given notice.
21	REVEREND JONES: Failing without good cause to
22	cooperate with any investigation or proceeding. I
23	really am having difficulty seeing the distinction.
24	MR. BURTCH: Well, the investigation part is
25	clear, and the proceeding part is the proceeding

1 before the hearing panel.

2	REVEREND HARDIN: So that so it does apply
3	to clergy, then, that they have a duty to cooperate
4	in front of the hearing panel or in the
5	MR. BURTCH: Yes, and we believe that that duty
6	is defined by their duty to appear and to testify,
7	but it would not be improper for a member of the

8 clergy to decline to speak to either counsel for the9 respondent or to counsel for the Diocese.

10 REVEREND JONES: And when does that change?
11 When, in the course of the proceeding, does that duty
12 of the clergy to cooperate change from having to
13 respond to any question to not having to respond?
14 What triggers that?

15 MR. BURTCH: It changes when the -- when a reference panel refers a matter to a hearing panel 16 17 and the hearing panel -- and the church attorney becomes counsel to the Diocese in the matter before 18 19 the hearing panel. It changes the minute the church 20 attorney's role changes which is from a broader 21 investigative role into a narrow advocacy role on 22 behalf of the Diocese. And that's set out in Canon 23 that that's the church attorney's role. 24 REVEREND HARDIN: So if we -- if we were to

25 find that we don't agree with that reading and that

1 clergy do have an obligation to speak with the church 2 attorney if they're contacted during the course of 3 this proceeding, would your contention be that even 4 if they do have that duty that no harm was done and 5 so it's not a sanctionable offense? Well, absolutely. No -- no harm MR. BURTCH: 6 has been done. 7 Nothing has happened. And were you to find that duty, it would at 8 9 least be arguable that there is no such duty, and to 10 hold someone subject to sanctions for being incorrect 11 on an interpretation -- on an interpretation of an 12 unclear Canon, I think would be improper. It's 13 not -- it's not sanctionable conduct. 14 REVEREND HARDIN: Do the Canons require that it 15 be proven that there was harm? No, I think the Canons -- I think 16 MR. BURTCH: 17 the Canons require that it's proven that there be 18 sanctionable conduct, and I think that one of the 19 elements of sanctionable conduct would be some kind 20 of harm. 21 I mean, yeah, witness tampering, dilatory is 22 harm. What -- Mr. Burtch, what is 23 PRESIDENT CARR: 24 your response to the church attorney's request to 25 know every clergy person that that e-mail went out

1 to? 2 Well, you know, discovery is MR. BURTCH: 3 closed. Maybe he's raised this motion for sanctions 4 simply on a ploy to get discovery to be reopened. 5 And I don't know. I'm not going to guestion the church attorney's motives, but I think that - I think 6 7 that if we go by our process, discovery is closed. And this is a motion for sanctions. This is 8 9 not a motion to reopen discovery because the church 10 attorney found something new. 11 REVEREND JONES: It wouldn't be improper for 12 him to ask for a reopening of discovery or for you to 13 do it? 14 MR. BURTCH: I would never say that it would be 15 improper for someone to request a reopening of discovery on some limited basis. I mean, you know, 16 we all are familiar with how discovery can become 17 18 oppressive and burdensome, but. 19 PRESIDENT CARR: Any additional questions here 20 for Mr. Burtch? 21 **REVEREND JONES:** I don't have any. 22 **REVEREND HARDIN:** I don't have any. 23 PRESIDENT CARR: Yeah, I did. I had one more. 24 I think you may have said this at the 25 beginning, Mr. Burtch, but I want to clarify. Do you

1 know if, in fact, that e-mail went to clergy, at 2 least some clergy? 3 MR. BURTCH: I believe it did, but I do not 4 know as a fact. 5 PRESIDENT CARR: Okay. If there are no other questions, then we'll reserve your remaining time and 6 7 go back to Mr. Davenport. MR. BURTCH: Thank you. 8 9 MR. DAVENPORT: Thank you. 10 Briefly on the suggestion, and Mr. Burtch was 11 careful not to accuse me of this, but of this being a 12 ploy, let me say that I didn't know anything about this e-mail that we're discussing until after the 13 14 discovery cutoff. This was all news to me within --I mean I didn't know about it until maybe a day or 15 two before I filed the motion for sanctions. 16 17 He spent most of his time talking about the 18 investigation stage just as he, in his brief, talked 19 about the investigation stage and not the proceeding 20 But he's basically re -- trying to read out stage. 21 of the Canon the proceeding language, and that's 22 where we are. 23 Now, just for clarification, the church 24 attorney is virtually not involved in the 25 investigation stage at all. The investigation is

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1 ordered by the reference panel, and the investigator 2 reports to the reference panel who -- which then 3 makes a decision whether to send it to a hearing panel, and that's what happened here. 4 I had nothing 5 to do with the investigation, nothing. I wasn't brought into this case until the reference panel 6 7 decided to send it to the hearing panel, and that's the normal course. 8

On the question of it being speculative that 9 10 the respondent would violate 19.18, I don't -- I 11 don't know that he has or hasn't. I don't think it's 12 speculative, though, because if he sent out the 13 notice that he did -- I mean the e-mail that he did 14 with respect to what we're talking about, I don't think it requires a whole lot of imagination that --15 to think that he might do the same thing with respect 16 17 to a hearing.

18 Now, there is a harm to the process here when 19 the respondent has notified his so-called friends, 20 which include clergy, that they have no duty to 21 cooperate with the church attorney. That is a harm 22 to the process because they do have a duty to 23 cooperate with the church attorney based on the Canon 24 that applies to them. That is a harm to the process 25 which is part of the -- and to the integrity of the

1 process which is part of the sanctions rule. 2 And that's all I have to say. 3 MR. BURTCH: Thank you. I think I have some reserved time if I can. 4 5 PRESIDENT CARR: All right. You may go. I would point the hearing panel to 6 MR. BURTCH: the definition of church attorney in -- I believe 7 it's Canon IV.2 where the church attorney has the 8 powers and duties otherwise provided in this Title to 9 10 conduct investigations and oversee the investigator 11 and within -- and in connection with such 12 investigation, has access to all kinds of terms and 13 documents. So the church attorney is vitally 14 connected with the investigation under the Canons. And that's why I think it's important that 15 there is a change in the role of the church attorney 16 17 as set forth in the Canon when the church attorney 18 becomes counsel to a party, and that happens after 19 the referral to the hearing panel and the -- when he 20 becomes counsel to that party. So, at that point, it 21 seems, to me, clear that the duty to cooperate that 22 clergy have as defined by Canon is further defined by 23 what the Canon requires how they cooperate which is 24 to appear and testify when duly served with notice. 25 **REVEREND** JONES: Mr. Burtch, can you cite the

1 Canon that describes the change in the role of the 2 church attorney? 3 MR. BURTCH: Yeah, it's -- if you give me a 4 minute, I can get it. It's in the paper I filed. 5 It's Canon IV.13.6. **REVEREND JONES:** 6 Thank you. 7 MR. BURTCH: In all proceedings before the hearing panel, the church attorney shall appear on 8 behalf of the Diocese which shall then be considered 9 10 the party on one side and the respondent the party on 11 the other. 12 That's the Canon which I --13 REVEREND JONES: Is there a Canon that 14 specifically says that his role changes to the extent 15 that he can no longer investigate? 16 MR. BURTCH: There is no Canon that says 17 that --18 **REVEREND** JONES: But that's a general --19 -- specifically. MR. BURTCH: 20 **REVEREND JONES:** Thank you. 21 Our Canons are imperfect. MR. BURTCH: 22 PRESIDENT CARR: On that, I can think we can 23 agree. 24 REVEREND JONES: Yeah, that would be 25 stipulated.

1REVEREND HARDIN: So, Mr. Burtch, I have a2question.

3 And, Mr. Davenport, I would like your thoughts4 on this too.

5 So, you know, we're obviously dealing -- right, 6 we're dealing with imperfect Canons. We're dealing 7 with a church proceeding rather than a court 8 proceeding which, in my mind, would be a little 9 clearer. There is a spirit of the law argument here, 10 right, like what is the spirit of this proceeding 11 meant to be and what are we trying to get at.

12 And, you know, Mr. Burtch, you sort of said 13 yourself that it -- the normal expectation in the 14 secular world in a civil procedure matter is that if 15 a party's attorney calls me, I do not have to talk to 16 them and that is my right.

And that right is not articulated in the Canons in that same way. And it could be argued that it's not in the Canons in that same way because we are trying to have a more cooperative, collegial process that really just gets to the truth of what is going on.

23 So if that's the case, if we're really trying 24 to work together to get to the truth of what's going 25 on and it's Mr. Davenport's assertion that he is --

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1 he should be allowed and is, in fact, canonically 2 allowed and clergy are required to speak with him 3 even during this hearing panel process, and that they 4 would also be required to speak with you, Mr. Burtch, 5 because that's -- that's what the Canons say, I quess I'm curious about your reading of the spirit of the 6 law around this idea that all of a sudden -- or not 7 all of a sudden, just this idea that now that there 8 9 are two parties, you can't -- that that goes sort of 10 out the window. How is the cooperative stance of 11 what we're trying to do served by that? 12 Well, this is -- this is a motion MR. BURTCH: 13 or this is a hearing on a motion for sanctions. And 14 it seems to me that it's profoundly unfair to 15 sanction a party based on, quote, the spirit of the

16 law, whatever that may be. In order to hold somebody 17 accountable for sanctions, it seems to me that it's 18 got to be a clear line that they've crossed. And 19 when we start talking about the spirit of the law, 20 we're already admitting that there is no clear line. 21 REVEREND HARDIN: Well, to be clear, I'm not

22 admitting that there is no clear line.

23 MR. BURTCH: I'm not saying that. I'm saying 24 when we start to refer to the spirit of the law, 25 there is no clear line, and you've got to have a

1 clear line to hold someone accountable for sanctions. 2 **REVEREND HARDIN:** Mr. Davenport, do you have 3 any additional thoughts about that? 4 MR. DAVENPORT: Yeah. I mean I think the 5 spirit -- actually, in this situation, the spirit of the Canons is actually reflected in the language of 6 the Canon that we're talking about which is different 7 from and more expansive than the duty of anybody in 8 9 the civil sector, as you've just said. The clergy 10 have a higher duty here. And it's very dangerous, I 11 think, for clergy who have received this e-mail to be 12 of the mind that they -- to believe what that e-mail 13 says because it's incorrect, that is that they are 14 free to ignore communications from the church 15 attorney. That are not free to do that, and he has put out false information which is disruptive of this 16 17 proceeding. All of that is reflected in this situation in 18

19 both the spirit and the letter of the law. The 20 overall spirit of Title IV is expressed in very lofty 21 terms, as we all know, in Canon I about repentance 22 and so forth, including justice. But the clergy have 23 a higher duty than -- under Title IV than anybody 24 that I'm aware of in any other context. 25 That's all.

1	MR. BURTCH: Well, the only thing I would add
2	to that is that if Mr. Davenport's argument is
3	correct, it is not clearly set out in the Canons, and
4	the only thing that is clearly set out in the Canons
5	is what the duty is in terms of to appear and to
6	testify based on the change of the role of the church
7	attorney and the change of the nature of the
8	proceeding. So I think we're our arguments all
9	boil down to things the Canons don't say. I think to
10	hold conduct sanctionable over conduct Canons don't
11	say is not a just result.
12	MR. DAVENPORT: I certainly disagree. We are
13	talking about what the Canons do say.
14	PRESIDENT CARR: Any additional statements by
15	either Mr. Burtch or Mr. Davenport?
16	MR. DAVENPORT: Not from me.
17	MR. BURTCH: If Mr. Davenport doesn't.
18	MR. DAVENPORT: No.
19	PRESIDENT CARR: Any additional questions from
20	the panel?
21	REVEREND JONES: I don't have any more
22	questions.
23	REVEREND HARDIN: I don't think I do either.
24	PRESIDENT CARR: I do not have any questions
25	either. So if there are no further questions, then

1 this proceeding is concluded. 2 Thank you all for being here. 3 I would ask for Reverend Jones and Reverend 4 Hardin to hang on because we have other things to talk about. 5 MR. BURTCH: Are we going to deal with the 6 scheduling issue? 7 8 PRESIDENT CARR: Not right now. 9 MR. BURTCH: Okay. 10 PRESIDENT CARR: We want to resolve this issue 11 prior to then scheduling -- I think just we want to 12 make sure that this issue doesn't generate further --13 further matters, appeals, anything of that matter. 14 MR. BURTCH: Okay. Thank you. 15 MR. DAVENPORT: Thank you. 16 PRESIDENT CARR: Thank you very much. 17 18 (The hearing concluded at 10:51 a.m.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

1 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE: 2 3 To wit: I, Lori McCoin Jones, RPR, CCR, Electronic Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at 4 5 large, and whose commission expires January 31, 2024, do certify that the foregoing is a true, correct, and full 6 transcript of the hearing in this matter. 7 I further certify that I am neither related to nor 8 associated with any counsel or party to this proceeding, 9 10 nor otherwise interested in the event thereof. 11 Given under my hand and notarial seal at Richmond, 12 Virginia, this 19th day of December, 2023. 13 14 Lori McCoin Jones 15 16 17 Lori McCoin Jones, RPR, CCR - Notary Public Commonwealth of Virginia 18 Registration No.: 115740 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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