



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND E. MARK STEVENSON, BISHOP

The Reverend Dr. B. Cayce Ramey
275 Gundry Drive
Falls Church, VA 22046
fightingfriar@gmail.com

15 July 2026

Subject: Intent to Pronounce Sentence

Dear Dr. Ramey:

As per Canon IV.14.8.a, and in regard to the 8 July 2026 Order issued by the Hearing Panel in the matter in which you are the Respondent, I am hereby advising you that at a time appropriate and in compliance with the Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church I intend to affirm the discernment of the Hearing Panel and pronounce the Sentence of Deposition recommended in the Order of 8 July 2026 – but with a period of time given to you (under a full Suspension from Ministry) to seek reconciliation with me, and thereby with those in authority over you as an ordained person, that would set aside the Deposition before it is enacted.

As per Canon IV.14.8.a, I am copying your Advisor, the Church Attorney, and the President of the Hearing Panel on this notice. (Note: There is no Complainant of Record in this matter.)

Regarding a Stay of Deposition:

At its heart, this disciplinary matter centers on your refusal to follow the vows that you made at your ordination – vows that you made first as a deacon and then as a priest; vows that you then subsequently reaffirmed from time to time with other clergy gathered for that purpose. The very first questions asked of you at both of your ordinations were, “*Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?*” Your assent to these questions, both verbally and by signature, is the foundation of all other questions put before you during those liturgies. These questions are guiding principles of your life as a deacon and priest in The Episcopal Church.

The vows that we take as clergy, and the authority that those vows put us under, are made and accepted of our own volition. These vows are not required of us to be a full member of the Body of Christ, nor to receive God’s grace. They are parameters of behavior that we choose to take on; and, in that choosing, we agree to be held accountable for following them. You chose to take on these vows, the Church has found that you have refused to

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follow them, and now accountability means that you are to be removed from the ordained ministry.

That being said, I am mindful of a question that has been posed to me by several individuals over the past few years – a question that typically follows the form of “Is there not a place for a priest like Cayce Ramey in The Episcopal Church?” This is a question that I respond to with the answer, “Yes, of course there is.” And I do believe that. As your bishop, however – who has taken a vow “*to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church*” – I must be certain that you are willing to live into the fullness of what being a priest means.

The disciplinary canons of The Episcopal Church (found in Title IV) begin with an important charge. Even before stating that members of the clergy “*by their vows at ordination accepted additional responsibilities and accountabilities for doctrine, discipline, worship and obedience*” – even before that, the canons call us to “*resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected.*” I take that calling seriously, and I have taken steps over these many months to resolve your conflicts with your vows in concert with it. This is also why I want to give the possibility of reconciliation one more chance before taking the step of removing you from the ordained ministry of The Episcopal Church as recommended by the Hearing Panel. Why? Because I do think you have gifts that mean that there is a place for you here as a priest.

In my final sentencing of you I will lay out a specific plan of action and timeline for conversation. Perhaps we can reach a place of reconciliation that may allow you to continue as a priest. If not, then the Deposition will be enacted. My hope and prayer is for the former, not the latter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Mark Stevenson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

cc: The Reverend Edward O. Miller, Jr., Respondent's Advisor
Mr. Bradfute W. Davenport, Jr., Esquire, Church Attorney
The Reverend Dina Widlake, President of the Hearing Panel
The Right Reverend Kevin S. Brown, Bishop of Delaware