



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND E. MARK STEVENSON, BISHOP

In the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
In the Matter of:
The Reverend Dr. B. Cayce Ramey

Notice of Sentence and The Imposing of Canonical Discipline

TO: The Clergy of the Diocese of Virginia
The Vestries of the Diocese of Virginia
The Secretary of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia
The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Virginia
The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
The Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese of the Episcopal Church
The President of the House of Deputies
The Recorder of Ordinations
The Church Pension Fund
The Archives of The Episcopal Church
The Secretary of the House of Bishops
The Secretary of the House of Deputies
The Recorder of Ordinations
The Board for Transition Ministry

DATE: 29 July 2026

Pursuant to Canon IV.14.8.b of the Canons of The Episcopal Church, and in accordance with the 8 July 2026 Order of the Hearing Panel, the following Sentence is imposed.

The Reverend Dr. B. Cayce Ramey

is Deposed from the ordained ministry of The Episcopal Church and thereby deprived of the right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority of God's word and sacraments conferred at ordination.

This Deposition is Stayed for a time to be determined at the sole discretion of the Bishop of Virginia, but not to exceed twenty-four (24) months from the date of this Sentence.

During the Stay:

- Dr. Ramey is invited to actively engage with the Bishop of Virginia in a process that might lead to reconciliation through repentance of his actions of disobedience and reaffirmation of his ordination vows, the veracity and sufficiency of such being determined by the sole judgement of the Bishop of Virginia; and



- Dr. Ramey is Suspended from the exercise of the gifts of ministry conferred by ordination; he is not to use titles or wear clothing designating himself as an ordained person, nor to receive compensation for duties or activities derived from or authorized by his ordination as a Minister of the Gospel in The Episcopal Church; which shall include, but not be limited to, teaching and/or preaching in any institution or community of faith of or in The Episcopal Church.

The Bishop of Virginia reserves the right in this Sentence to end the Suspension at any time and without advance notice. At such a time, the Stay is lifted and the Deposition takes immediate effect unless the Bishop of Virginia is confident of and satisfied with Dr. Ramey's repentance and reconciliation. In the event that the Stay is not lifted after twenty-four months from the date of this Sentence, the Deposition takes effect at that time.

Regarding the reasoning for a Stay of Deposition:

At its heart, this disciplinary matter centers on a refusal to follow the vows made at one's ordination – vows made first as a deacon and then as a priest; vows that are then subsequently reaffirmed from time to time with other clergy gathered for that purpose. The very first questions asked at both ordinations are, "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?" The ordinand's assent to these questions, both verbally and by signature, is the foundation of all other questions during those liturgies. These questions are guiding principles of one's life as a deacon or priest in The Episcopal Church. The Order of the Hearing Panel cites numerous instances of disobedience in opposition to these questions and vows on the part of Dr. Ramey.

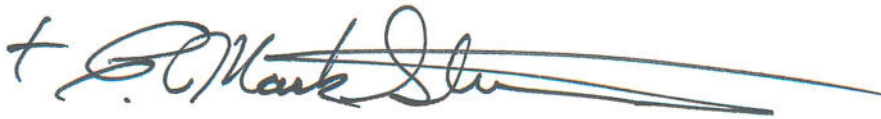
The vows made by clergy, and the authority that those vows put them under, are made and accepted of one's own volition. These vows are not required to be a full member of the Body of Christ, nor to receive God's grace. They are parameters of behavior that are chosen; and, in that choosing, one agrees to be held accountable for following them. Dr. Ramey chose to take on these vows, the Church has found that he has refused to follow them, and now accountability means that he is 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 from time to time – 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 a bishop, however – who has taken a vow "to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church" – I must be certain that a person is willing to live into the fullness of what it means to be a priest.

The disciplinary canons of The Episcopal Church (found in Title IV) begin with an important charge. Before stating that members of the clergy "by their vows at ordination accepted additional responsibilities and accountabilities for doctrine, discipline, worship and obedience", 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 many months to resolve the conflicts with Dr. Ramey's vows in concert with it. This is also why I want to give the possibility of reconciliation one more chance before removing him from the ordained ministry of The Episcopal Church as recommended by the Hearing Panel. Why? Because I do think he has gifts that mean that there is a place for him here as a priest.

Therefore, I am Staying the Deposition for a length of time of my sole choosing to allow for the possibility of healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation.

This Sentence is imposed on this day, 29 July 2026, in the Fourth Year of my Consecration, and is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Mark Stevenson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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