

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

THE RT. REV'D DORSEY F. HENDERSON, JR., M.Div., J.D.
BISHOP

CONFIDENTIAL

June 10, 2008
Ephrem of Edessa, Deacon, 373

The Most Rev'd Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

In the Matter of the Right Reverend Charles E. Bennison, Jr. and the Financial Management of the Diocese of Pennsylvania

Report of the Title IV Review Committee

Most Rev'd and dear Bishop:

In November, 2006, the Presiding Bishop's Office received a document titled "Verified Complaint" signed by five clerical and five lay members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The complaint accused the Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr., Bishop of Pennsylvania, of offenses relating to the financial management of the Diocese, including violations of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, violations of the Canons of the National Episcopal Church, and conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy. The complaint asked the Presiding Bishop to refer the matter for investigation and presentment.

The Presiding Bishop's Office forwarded the complaint to the House of Bishops' Title IV Review Committee. In accordance with Canons IV.3.41 and IV.3.42, the Review Committee asked the Church Attorney to investigate the charges against Bishop Bennison and render a confidential report on any findings. The Church Attorney reviewed the complaint and supporting documentation; interviewed Standing Committee members and other present and former officials in the Diocese of Pennsylvania; and considered pertinent canons and precedents.

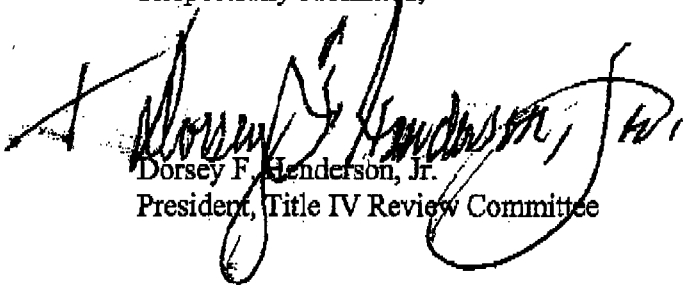
The Church Attorney's exhaustive Report considered the various canonical violations alleged as well as the allegation that the conduct complained of constituted "conduct unbecoming" under Canon IV.1.1(j).

The Church Attorney's Report stated that his investigation has not disclosed facts that, if found to be true upon trial, would clearly and convincingly show that Bishop Bennison acted contrary to the Canons of the Church or the Diocesan Canons or otherwise engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy by managing the financial affairs of the Diocese as he did.

The Church Attorney noted that if the facts disclosed by the investigation were to be adduced and found true upon trial, then there would not be clear and convincing evidence that Bishop Bennison violated Canon IV.1(e), which subjects a bishop to presentment and trial if the bishop be found to have violated the Constitution or Canons of the General Convention; Canon IV.1(f), which subjects a bishop to presentment and trial if the bishop be found to have violated the Constitution or Canons of the diocese in which he or she is canonically resident; or Canon IV.1(j), which subjects a bishop to presentment and trial if the bishop be found to have engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy. The Church Attorney concluded that Bishop Bennison committed no offense in these matters alleged for which he should be disciplined under Canon IV, and recommended, accordingly, that no presentment be issued and no charges against Bishop Bennison be referred to a Court for the Trial of a Bishop under Title IV, Canon 5.

At its meeting on May 21, 2008, the Review Committee voted not to issue a presentment in this matter and, in accordance with Canon IV.3.46, authorized the preparation of this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorsey F. Henderson, Jr.
President, Title IV Review Committee