



ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

July 19, 2025

The Most Rev. Stephen D. Wood
Anglican Church in North America
440 Whilden Street
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Re: In the Matter of Stewart Ruch, III, Bishop of the Diocese of the Upper Midwest

Dear Archbishop Wood,

It is with great regret and deep spiritual sadness that I submit my resignation as Provincial Prosecutor, effective July 18, 2025.

As you know, I have been a practicing attorney for 48 years with experience in many trials including representing the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina in its 10-year legal fight with the Episcopal Church. When Archbishop Beach first contacted me in the fall of 2023 to be Provincial Prosecutor, I did not feel led by God to agree. About 8 months later in the spring of 2024, he contacted me again after the first Prosecutor had resigned for unrelated issues. At that time, I felt led to assume this role. It has been daily a part of my practice since April 2024 and in the last few months, this case has had my complete attention to the exclusion of all other work. Unfortunately, today, also in response to God's leadership, that comes to an end.

Yesterday, the trial was in its 5th day, and the prosecution was on the verge of completing the case against Bishop Ruch. In the morning, while the Province's expert and last witness was concluding her testimony, a lengthy line of questioning was begun and developed by a member of the Court. This questioning drew upon material this Court member had reviewed that was not in evidence before the Court with the assertion to the Court that this was material they had not seen. Over the course of more than an hour, this Court member not only pursued this line of questioning but made a number of affirmative statements that cast suspicion on the investigative process that preceded the charges in the Presentments. This was despite the Court's earlier April 2025 Order in this case which ruled that evidence of the investigative process was "improper". The Court issued this earlier ruling because, rather than focusing solely on the charges made against him, Bishop Ruch had focused on information about the investigative process. Nothing in

the record before me or of which I was aware suggested any impropriety in the investigative process or in its oversight by the Province.

The actions by this member of the Court were improper. Among the reasons are these:

- The materials upon which the Court member based his comments and questions had been obtained by him acting on his own without any disclosure of their source, had not been placed into evidence by any party, and were not properly in the trial record.
- The statements and questions were based on the investigative process when the Court had previously found “such inquiry improper”: “once a Presentment is before the Court for the Trial of a Bishop, the proceedings are to focus on the charges and allegations of that Presentment(s) and on the admissible evidence that either supports or refutes those charges.”
- The Court member’s statements and questions put the integrity of the investigative process at issue in these proceedings despite the Court’s prior ruling that those inquiries were improper.

At that point, all six of the other members of the Court had been exposed to an unwarranted suspicion of provincial investigative bias brought into the trial by a single Court member, contrary to the Court’s duty to determine the outcome based solely on the evidence in the trial record. At the conclusion of that examination and after an hour break which I had requested to assess the extent of the harm to the process, I concluded the trial process had been irreparably tainted. I told the Court my conclusion and that I would communicate to you the fact of my resignation and its basis.

Prior to that recess, I asked the Court to make available to all parties the trial record, including the full transcript, and the Court agreed to do so. In light of my resignation, the trial record and full transcript of all proceedings should also be provided to the Provincial Office to be fully available to any successor Provincial Prosecutor you appoint. (Because it was a transcript created by AI transcription, I would like to review the transcript to confirm that it is complete and accurate.) I suggest you request the record and transcript from the Court if not shortly provided for the benefit of my successor.

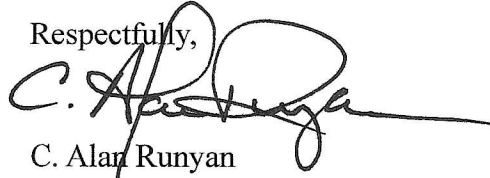
I believe that full transparency is in the best interests of the entire ACNA and this trial record and full transcript, subject to redaction of the names of victims and witnesses, should be disclosed to the Church. Because the entire process likely will be threatened by false narratives about the prosecution and the defenses against it, the entire record including everything submitted to the Court since this prosecution began should be made available to the ACNA, its churches and members.

I am deeply saddened by this outcome. Witnesses from the US and Canada have voluntarily provided testimony and others were scheduled to do so had this trial continued. Hundreds of hours have been spent by both parties, witnesses and the Court to see that justice

prevails in this matter. I am sorry for the burden it places on you and on all those who seek a just resolution of these charges. Nevertheless, this is not simply something that can be casually overlooked for expediency's stake. A trial process that bears within it the seed of impropriety, no matter the outcome, must change.

Though impossible to see now, I pray for God to be glorified in the ultimate outcome of this decision.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Runyan", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

C. Alan Runyan

Provincial Prosecutor

Anglican Church in North America