



**IN THE TITLE IV DISCIPLINARY MATTER
INVOLVING THE
RT. REV. WILLIAM H. LOVE, RESPONDENT**

November 26, 2019

William Strickland, Esq .
208 Angora Way
Summerville, SC 29485

Paul E. Cooney, Esq.
8 Rice Court
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: The Episcopal Church v. The Right Rev. William H. Love

Dear Gentlemen:

On or about November 4, 2019, I was informed by counsel for the Hearing Panel, Diane E. Sammons, Esq., that you both made a joint request that the Hearing Panel consider proceeding directly to a summary judgment-style motion seeking a ruling on whether B012 is binding on Bishop Love. The request would envision staying mandatory disclosures and all other discovery allowed under Canon IV.13.5 pending a decision on the motion. The Hearing Panel met on November 14, 2019 to consider your request. In the considered judgment of the Panel, the language of the Canons, specifically IV.13.5 (a) mandates that "[w]ithin 60 days after the filing and delivery of the response, the Church Attorney and the Respondent's counsel shall each provide to the other, a mandatory disclosure of all evidence known to them that would tend to approve or disprove the allegations against the Respondent . . .". (Emphasis added). Despite Canon IV.13 .5 (t) that provides discretion for the Panel to take "reasonable steps to assure that the discovery process will not unduly burden any person from whom information is sought or unduly adversely affect

any pastoral response", neither side has alleged an "undue burden" nor that proceeding with mandatory disclosures now would "unduly affect any pastoral response offered to any such person."

Finally, the Panel believes that proceeding with mandatory disclosures now may sharpen the issues for a subsequent summary judgment-style motion. The Panel takes no position on the merits of moving directly to summary judgment subsequent to mandatory disclosures and this can be discussed and considered at the time of convening the scheduling conference. Please be guided accordingly. I will be in further communication with you both to set a date for the scheduling conference

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Nicholas Knisely". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

The Right Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely
Convener