FOR THE CARE OF A BISHOP’S SOUL
When Discipline is Required for Any Act Committed Against our Lord and His Church

LET IT BE AFFIRMED: a bishop’s conduct and life must be blameless and above reproach

LET IT BE AFFIRMED: an essential duty of the bishop is to ensure the faith, unity, and discipline of the clergy and Church

And, LET IT BE AFFIRMED: bishops who exercise proper, godly discipline to others must themselves model, example, and be subject to even a higher standard on account of the nature and responsibilities of their office

Nevertheless, LET IT BE AFFIRMED: in the life of God’s holy Church, bishops can fall into sin; and in that case, it is of utmost importance that the Church and its leaders model godly repentance and full restoration

FOR THIS REASON, the care of a bishop’s soul when discipline is required, as determined by the Archbishop and/or as brought to his attention by members of the College of Bishops, must be of the highest importance

FOR THIS REASON, according to proper biblical and Anglican order, BE IT RESOLVED that the first and primary goal is not to place the reconciliation and restoration of the bishop before the task of caring for and discipling the soul of the bishop and, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, when discipline is required, the Archbishop appoints a Chaplain to mentor and oversee the bishop for a godly period of time that allows penitence, fasting, meditation, counsel and prayer (as demonstrated in our yearly devotion of the Lenten Season) and leads to:

- Solemn confession of sins

- A process wherein the causes and motivations that led to the breach in attitude and behavior are identified and, if welcomed by the bishop, produces “repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth”, absolution and amendment of life

- Then, when deemed right by the Archbishop, an appointed time is determined for the reconciliation of the bishop and his reception back into the fellowship of bishops

- And, if deemed appropriate by the Archbishop, with the College of Bishops in agreement, the full and complete restoration of the bishop to his office

MAY IT BE AGREED, the proper and ordered care of the bishop’s soul by means of confession, repentance, and a godly period of care, counsel and reflection brings glory to God, health to His Church, hope to all who sin, and the joy of true reconciliation that comes by means of the Cross of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.