

**CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE COURT
FOR THE TRIAL OF A BISHOP**



Anglican Church in North America

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In the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch, III
(Bishop, Diocese of the Upper Midwest)

ORDER REGARDING RESUMPTION OF TRIAL FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF THE PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR

The Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial of a Bishop
Anglican Church in North America

NOW COMES THE COURT, having taken up the matter of the resumption of trial proceedings In the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch, III, following the unexpected resignation of the Provincial Prosecutor prior to the close of the Province's case-in-chief, and having reviewed the submission of the Chancellor of the Province, together with the procedural history, equities involved, and governing canonical and procedural rules, now enters the following Order to direct the manner in which the trial shall proceed and to safeguard a just, expeditious, and orderly adjudication of the case.

WHEREAS, in the matter of the Presentment against the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch III, the duly appointed Provincial Prosecutor, Mr. C. Alan Runyan, tendered his resignation on the afternoon of the fifth day of trial (July 18, 2025) following the testimony of numerous witnesses and the submission of thousands of pages of exhibits into the record, and prior to formally resting the Province's case;

WHEREAS, the Court, in response to this development, issued a formal request to the Chancellor of the Province for a submission indicating the intended course of action by the Province with respect to the vacancy in the office of Provincial Prosecutor;

WHEREAS, the Chancellor, in a written submission, informed the Court that the Province intends to fill the vacancy as promptly as possible, in accordance with Title IV, Canon 5, Section 2.3 of the Provincial Canons, and has requested a period of 30 days to do so, while acknowledging that the vacancy may not be filled within that timeframe. A copy of the *Submission by*

Chancellor of the ACNA in the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch, is attached as **Exhibit “A”**.

WHEREAS, the current Provincial Prosecutor was appointed on April 24, 2024, by then Archbishop Foley Beach, following the withdrawal of the prior Prosecutor on April 4, 2024,

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2024, Mr. Runyan notified counsel for the Respondent and the President of the Court that he had been appointed by then Archbishop Foley Beach to serve as Provincial Prosecutor effective April 24, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Rules of Procedure for the Trial of a Bishop provide that these Rules “shall be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action brought within the Provincial Ecclesiastical Trial Courts of the Province,” and further recognize and acknowledge the presumption of innocence of the accused, the right to representation by counsel, and the fundamental principles of fairness, due process, and natural justice—all of which require timely and expeditious proceedings;

WHEREAS, the Court has carefully weighed and considered the procedural rights and interests of the Province, the rights and interests of the Respondent, and the overarching demands of justice, including the integrity of the trial process, the importance of continuity, and the necessity of full adjudication on the merits;

WHEREAS, any further delay in the proceedings would undermine the pursuit of timely justice, and the imperative to advance this matter without additional postponement is now both clear and compelling;

WHEREAS, the Court has also considered the logistical realities of coordinating the schedules of court officers, counsel, witnesses, and personnel—many of whom have made significant sacrifices and accommodations to support the orderly administration of justice;

WHEREAS, the trial date has been publicly set since October 4, 2024, creating clear expectations for readiness and stability among all parties;

WHEREAS, this matter has involved extraordinary cost and effort in both its prosecution and defense, and the ongoing pendency has produced serious disruption to the life and ministry of the Church, particularly in the affected dioceses and parishes;

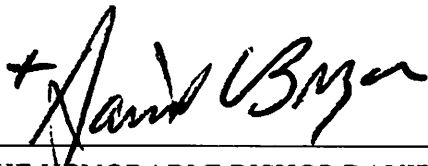
NOW THEREFORE, the Court finds that any continuation of delay—particularly beyond 21 days—would be prejudicial to the Respondent, disruptive to the ecclesial mission, and inconsistent with the duties of the Court to ensure prompt and fair adjudication;

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Trial Court of a Bishop shall reconvene and resume the trial at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 11, 2025.

2. The Court issues this Order in full recognition of the complexities created by the resignation of the Provincial Prosecutor and the Province's ongoing efforts to appoint a successor, but concludes that the public interest in resolution, the rights of the Respondent, and the need for finality in this prolonged matter all compel that the proceedings must now move forward without further undue delay.
3. The Court hereby deems the resignation of the Provincial Prosecutor, Mr. Alan Runyan, to be effective as of July 18, 2025. This determination is based on Mr. Runyan's clear and unequivocal statement of resignation made in open court on the record, without objection from any party or the Court at that time. In light of this, and absent any canonical requirement to the contrary, the resignation is considered effective and operative as of that date.
4. The Court remains committed to conducting a full and impartial adjudication on the merits and assures all parties that no adverse inference shall arise from the procedural posture of either side as of this date.
5. In accordance with this Order, the previously scheduled resumption of trial on Monday, July 21, 2025, is hereby **VACATED**.
6. The Respondent's Motion for Directed Verdict and a Findings of Not Guilty is hereby held in abeyance. The Court will take up the motion at such time as proceedings reconvene. Accordingly, consideration of the motion is deferred until the Court resumes at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 11, 2025.

SO ORDERED AND ENTERED this 20th day of July 2025.



THE HONORABLE BISHOP DAVID BRYAN
PRESIDENT, COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF A BISHOP



REV. CN. JEFFREY G. WEBER, ESQ.
PRESIDING OFFICER, IN THE MATTER OF STEWART RUCH, III



Clerk of Court <clerkofcourt@acna.org>

Submission by Chancellor of the ACNA in the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch

William W. Nelson <wnelson@smithlaw.com>

Sun, Jul 20, 2025 at 3:12 PM

To: "clerkofcourt@acna.org" <clerkofcourt@acna.org>

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Bishop David Bryan, President

Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial of a Bishop
Anglican Church in North America

**In the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch III
(Bishop, Diocese of the Upper Midwest)**

July 20, 2025

Dear President Bryan,

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be unto you and the Court.

I write to you in my capacity as Chancellor of the Anglican Church in North America and in response to this Court's request of this date for a submission addressing the Province's intentions in light of the resignation of the Provincial Prosecutor, Mr. Alan Runyon. Specifically, the Court has asked for the Province's intentions regarding the appointment of a new Prosecutor and the continuing role of the Assistant to the Provincial Prosecutor, Ms. Rachel Tebeau.

Please note that, while Mr. Runyon has communicated to Archbishop Wood his intention to resign his position as Provincial Prosecutor, he has also stated to the Archbishop that he intends to effect his resignation by submitting a letter of resignation. As of the time of this submission, no signed letter of resignation has been received.

Without prejudice to the Court's prerogatives with respect to the disposition of this case, the Archbishop intends to fill any vacancy in the office of Provincial Prosecutor by appointing a new Prosecutor as promptly as possible in accordance with Title IV, Canon 5, §2.3 of the Province's Canons. The Archbishop hopes to make this appointment within thirty days of this date, but no candidate has yet been identified, and I cannot state with confidence that the vacancy can be filled within that period. I will undertake to keep the Court apprised of the matter.

Whether Ms. Tebeau will continue to serve as Assistant to the Provincial Prosecutor will be deferred to the judgment of the new Prosecutor once appointed.

I respectfully request that, during any vacancy in the office of Provincial Prosecutor, the Court provide me, as Chancellor, with a copy of any order or other communication that would otherwise be provided to the Prosecutor. I also request that

EXH."A"

during the same period the Court continue in effect its order dated July 10, 2025, regarding the attendance of Ms. Thebeau at proceedings of the Court.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Nelson

Chancellor, Anglican Church in North America

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