

## **Public Statement from the Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial of a Bishop**

*Anglican Church in North America*

*In the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch, III*

The recent announcement of Mr. Thomas P. Crapps, Esq., as the new Provincial Prosecutor, assisted by Mr. Frank Shaw, III, Esq., marks an important step in the completion of the proceedings *In the Matter of the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch, III*. Upon their appointment, the province began the process of reviewing many thousands of pages of investigative records, trial exhibits, and transcripts in preparation for the resumption of the trial.

On motion by the province for an extension of time, the Court carefully weighed the various interests at stake—including the province’s need to prepare its case fully, the Respondent’s interest in a timely resolution, the victims’ Interests in ensuring relevant testimony is fully received and considered and the schedules of the volunteer members and personnel of the Court. The Court determined that the interests of justice are best served by ensuring the completion of a full trial with all relevant evidence considered.

Accordingly, the Court granted the province additional time to prepare and has scheduled the trial to resume on October 6, 2025, continuing until its conclusion. The Court is committed to assisting the new Provincial Prosecutor within the bounds of its ethical responsibilities, while ensuring fairness to all parties and maintaining the integrity of the judicial process.

Following the conclusion of the trial, the Court will issue a full and detailed order that will include a comprehensive account of all evidence reviewed, together with the Court’s findings of fact and its conclusions of law, as required by the Constitution and Canons.

The Court will also address—through proper channels, at the appropriate time, and without violating the provisions of confidentiality—all questions related to the fairness and integrity of its proceedings.

We ask for the continued prayers of the Church for wisdom, patience, and charity for all involved in these proceedings, as we complete the work to which this court was called.

*Issued this 12th day of August 2025.*

The Honorable Rt. Rev. David Bryan  
President, Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial of a Bishop