



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

November 3, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

I write to you today with a heavy heart and concern for the Church, the Bride of Christ, for which the Lord died, and which we all love and desire to faithfully honor and serve.

I am acutely aware of the challenges our Church is facing as a consequence of accusations made against me first to *The Washington Post* and, subsequently, through the Church's established channels for reporting misconduct. While I grieve that anyone experiences harm in the Church, as I have noted to my parish, I believe the charges against me lack merit, and I categorically and emphatically deny the particular accusation of attempted physical contact made against me by a former St. Andrew's employee.

For the health and witness of the Church, it is critical to take every allegation of misconduct seriously and to ensure that the mission of the church proceeds without interruption. Therefore, after much prayer and discernment, and with the support of the Executive Committee and the College of Bishops, I have decided to take a leave of absence from my duties as Archbishop of the Province and Bishop of the Diocese of the Carolinas until the proceedings to address these allegations are resolved. I have also announced my previously planned retirement as Rector of St. Andrews Parish in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

During this leave of absence, and consistent with our Canons, Bishop Ray Sutton, as Dean of the Province, will assume my canonical responsibilities and duties as Archbishop. To support Bishop Sutton, I am also reviving the position of Dean for Provincial Affairs. Bishop John Guernsey held this position for 10 years under the leadership of Archbishop Foley Beach. I am appointing Bishop Julian Dobbs to this position until the proceedings against me are resolved.

The ACNA has a canonical process in place for holding all of its leaders accountable to discipline when warranted, and I am fully committed to this process, trusting that the truth will come to light in due course. Even in this challenging circumstance, I am confident that the Lord will use all things for His glory, for the strengthening of His Church and for healing. I am also prayerful that this decision will enable the mission of the Church to move forward without impediment.

Until that day, I ask you to continue to hold everyone involved in these matters in your prayers. Let us walk together in grace and unity, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, "*the author and perfecter of our faith*" (Hebrews 12:2).

With deep gratitude and faith in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Wood', with two small crosses above it.

The Most Reverend Steve Wood
Archbishop and Primate, The Anglican Church in North America