

The Season after Pentecost

October 30, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ in the Anglican Church in North America,

The Governance Task Force (GTF) is pleased to share with the province a revised draft of our proposed wholesale revision of the ACNA's Title IV disciplinary canons. We are grateful for the robust feedback we received during the first comment period from careful readers from all over the province. We believe that the proposed revision has been greatly improved by your participation in this process. We hope, as well, that the clarity and transparency that these revisions will provide in the area of discipline will be an encouraging sign of growing maturity in our province.

In general, the feedback received by the GTF has been overwhelmingly positive. Notably, not a single instance of feedback questioned the heart of the proposed revision, namely that our province:

- Move away from minimal disciplinary canons towards more comprehensive, and necessarily lengthier canons, so that all in the process know what they are to do, when they are to do it, and the powers granted them to do it;
- Dispense with from “one-and-done” investigative bodies and “cart-before-the-horse” patterns with regard to presentments and investigation thereof towards a clearer process of report receipt and evaluation ⇒ investigation, if necessary, by a standing investigation committee ⇒ inquiry by a tribunal and possible sentence; and
- The use of an inquiry model of truth seeking, rather than the attorney-driven adversarial system to which we have defaulted for far too long.

Many commentators celebrated this fundamental shift in how we as a province will conduct disciplinary proceedings under these new canons, and for this the GTF is overwhelmingly encouraged!

Constructive criticism came in the way of both discrete comments regarding specific sections or language and, in several cases, complete redlines of the entire document (yeoman tasks for which the GTF was surely grateful and impressed). As you review both the “Clean Version with Comments,” and the “Redline” version of this newest draft of our revised Title IV, you'll see numerous comment bubbles that describe prominent areas in which feedback was incorporated or declined.

Dr. Tiffany Butler has produced a rigorous “What We Heard” document available alongside this release that provides some data regarding the scope and treatment of the comments received. As the redline reflects, it would be nearly impossible to note all the ways in which your feedback made a positive impact on language throughout this latest draft. Here are a few key areas where substantial changes were made, knowing that further prayerful discernment is still ongoing within the GTF and that, as this new period of comment opens, we continue to be engaged in further refinement.

- In Canon IV.1.1, we continue to work on exacting language to help clarify the duty to reconcile with the need for prompt and thorough investigation in matters not fit for such pastoral resolution.

- A new Canon IV.1.7 has been added regarding the role of the Chancellor in the revised disciplinary system, which is intentionally minimal.
- Several new definitions were added, most in direct response to comments, such as “fair synopsis” and “pastoral resolution.” The definition of “public notice” is one that continues to be refined as we balance the need for notice with appropriate confidentiality, which is always a challenge in a system seeking both transparency and privacy for both reporting party and an accused bishop, priest, or deacon.
- Canon IV.3.(c) contains a much more concise definition of sexual misconduct.
- A standard of review was added to Canons IV.6.4.4 and IV.6.7.5. A Sentencing Review Board’s must now provide a rationale for any adjustment of a sentence suggested for a bishop who confesses or is found by a disciplinary tribunal to have violated the canons.
- Canon IV.8.3, regarding an avenue of appeal based solely on the length of a suspension, was removed altogether. The GTF has deemed it unnecessary given the appeal rights a respondent has under Canon IV.9.

As before, the GTF commends this further refined “Version 2.0” of our province’s proposed revisions to Title IV to your prayerful and careful reading and comment. Comments can be made via the provincial website at www.anglicanchurch.net/title-iv-review or by emailing Fr. Andrew Rowell at arowell@christchurchanglican.net. This second comment period will extend until December 14, 2025, and, during that time, the GTF will continue to meet with key stakeholders as we further refine these revisions. We will release “Version 3.0” on or about January 31, 2026, for a final cycle of public review and comment.

We are thankful for your input and ask for your continued prayers for this work.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Cn. Andrew M. Rowell, Esq (Gulf Atlantic), Chair
for the Governance Task Force

The Very Rev. Cn. Christopher Culpepper (Ft. Worth)
The Rev. Dr. Mary Juno Baker (Pittsburgh)
The Rev. Cn. Jim Lewis (South Carolina)
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