

This version of the letter has been updated to include additional signatures. Please note that the letter was not intended as an open petition, but rather a request, and therefore not all bishops saw it in time to consider signing. Please don't read anything into it if your bishop didn't sign. As of Sunday afternoon, September 3, the signature process is closed.

August 31, 2023

Dear Colleagues in the House of Bishops,

We are aware of several recent high profile cases in which bishops were accused of improper behavior, and many in the church believe those bishops received few or no consequences.

We are angered by and deeply concerned about the perception – or the reality – that bishops get a free pass on behavioral issues. We believe our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being requires us to protect every person from harm in Jesus's church. We want to ensure that in our system, issues like these are taken seriously and treated appropriately. Bishops cannot be allowed to have a "free pass."

We are glad the church has already taken one positive step in the past few months, which is to hire an independent Episcopal Church Intake Officer for Bishops. This is a good first step in addressing the perception that as bishops we are not held accountable for our behavior.

We ask that time be set aside at the upcoming House of Bishops meeting to candidly discuss these concerns and review our disciplinary canons. We hope to develop a healthy way forward that will bring us into better relationship with one another, and restore trust in the office of bishop for our whole church.

In Christ's Name,

The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen, Honduras

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, California

The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby, El Camino Real

The Rt. Rev. Scott Barker, Nebraska

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Indianapolis

The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, Navajoland

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Eastern Oregon

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, Maine

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, Chicago
The Rt. Rev. Glenda Curry, Alabama
The Rt. Rev. Andy Dietsche, New York
The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, Texas
The Rt. Rev. De De Duncan Probe, Central New York
The Rt. Rev. Mark Edington, Convocation of the Churches in Europe
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, Western Massachusetts
The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Texas
The Rt. Rev. Bob Fitzpatrick, Hawaii
The Rt. Rev. Jonathan Folts, South Dakota
The Rt. Rev. Sally French, New Jersey
The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Bonforte Gardner, Nevada
The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, New York
The Rt. Rev. Matt Gunter, Fond du Lac
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez, Pennsylvania
The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Missouri
The Rt. Rev. Anne Jolly, Ohio
The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue, Georgia
The Rt. Rev. Justin Holcomb, Central Florida
The Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes, Newark
The Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn, Rio Grande
The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, Alaska
The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Minnesota
The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas, Colorado
The Rt. Rev. Shannon McVean-Brown, Vermont
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello, Connecticut
The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Iowa
The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry, Michigan
The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray, Northern Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, Arizona

The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, Spokane

The Rt. Rev. David Rice, San Joaquin

The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, retired

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf, West Tennessee

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York

The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan, Texas

The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Central Pennsylvania

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf, Southwest Florida

The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook, San Diego

The Rt. Rev. Phyllis Spiegel, Utah

The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins, Montana

The Rt. Rev. John Taylor, Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan, Idaho

The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair, Northern California

The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering, Lexington

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, South Carolina

The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, Atlanta