
The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church
815 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10017



March 25, 2021
Feast of the Annunciation

Dear Presiding Bishop ++ Michael,
I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on this, the Feast of the Annunciation. Fifteen years ago today, I was elected as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Albany. Serving our Lord and His Church in the Diocese of Albany has been one of the greatest honors and blessings of my life, for which I will be forever thankful.

Following my resignation as Bishop Diocesan on February 1, 2021, I have spent much time in thought and prayer, seeking God's guidance in how I might best remain faithful to His Holy Word and serve Him and His Church in this next chapter of life. In so doing, I have come to believe that the Lord is now releasing me from any further ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church. I therefore resign from the House of Bishops and request to be released and removed from the ordained Ministry of The Episcopal Church and from the obligations attendant thereto, in accordance with Canon III.12.7 (a) of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, effective Good Friday, April 2, 2021.

As you are well aware, I have struggled greatly over the last several years with many of the new theological understandings of The Episcopal Church, particularly in regard to TEC's ever-increasing progressive views concerning human sexuality, same-sex marriage and the authority of God's Holy Word as revealed in the Scriptures. I have tried these past 15 years by God's grace and the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit (despite my differences with the direction of the Church) to be fully engaged in the life and ministry of the House of Bishops, never missing a single meeting. At the same time, I have tried to honor my ordination vows and stand firm in my belief in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God. I have taken seriously my call as a bishop, to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church, and to celebrate and to provide for the faithful administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant. By God's grace I have tried to serve as a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.

With the passage of Resolution B012 at the 79th General Convention in 2018, and my recent conviction by the Hearing Panel in the fall of 2020, finding me guilty of violating my ordination vows and failing to uphold the discipline of The Episcopal Church, due to my unwillingness to abide by B012 and refusal to allow for the blessing of same-sex marriages in the Diocese of Albany, it has become clear that the teachings and beliefs of today's Episcopal Church, have

changed radically from the teachings and beliefs of the Church that I was born and raised in, baptized in, confirmed in, married in, and ordained in as a deacon, priest and bishop.

It had been my hope and prayer, as I mentioned to you during your visit for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Albany, that there would always be a genuine place in The Episcopal Church for theologically conservative and orthodox Christians to worship and serve God, allowing them to remain faithful to their understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture over our lives. At the time, you stated that was your hope and prayer as well. Unfortunately, that was not the will of the 79th General Convention.

Shortly after I released my November 2018 Pastoral Letter and Pastoral Directive to the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Albany pertaining to Resolution B012, I received an email from a fellow bishop and dear friend, imploring me to reconsider my position and rescind the Pastoral Letter. He stated, “There is no place in this branch of the church for you or any bishop to exercise resistance in opposition to the overwhelming will of General Convention claiming conscience and acting as if it is ecclesiastic Authority. You must resign – you cannot exercise conscience as if it is ecclesiastical authority – it is not. You must either accept the discipline or resign as the diocesan bishop of Albany.”

Tragically, my fellow bishop’s words proved true. The passage of B012 and my subsequent conviction by the Hearing Panel clearly shows “there is no place in this branch of the church” for theologically conservative and orthodox bishops to uphold the traditional understanding of marriage as that between one man and one woman as clearly revealed by God in Holy Scripture and taught by the Church for over 2000 years.

Unfortunately, what was seen by my fellow bishop as “an act of conscience” on my part, was in fact an attempt to recognize and honor the authority of Holy Scripture over our personal lives and that of the Church in regard to issues pertaining to human sexuality and marriage, and to faithfully exercise my responsibility as a Bishop in Christ’s one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church to “guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church,” and to “boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Jesus Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience” of those people entrusted to my care, as called for in my ordination vows as a Bishop. It was NOT, as I have often been accused by many progressives, motivated by any sense of homophobia, mean-spiritedness, hatred, bigotry, or prejudice toward people with same sex attractions or transgender desires.

Despite what some may think, I sincerely care about these individuals and for that reason, I do not believe it is appropriate for me as a Bishop, or for the Church to bless or encourage behaviors that I believe God has revealed through Holy Scripture and over 2000 years of Christian teaching, as being in

opposition to His will, and therefore harmful to the very people we all say we want to help and share God's love.

The views I hold on these issues are not unique to me. They are shared by thousands of faithful theologically conservative and orthodox Christians (lay and ordained) who are still worshipping in The Episcopal Church, as well as the vast majority of the world-wide Anglican Communion and wider Body of Christ. It greatly saddens me to think that a Church that advertises itself as being diverse, inclusive and welcoming, fails to appreciate the importance and necessity of the theologically conservative voice in the Church, and seems intent on either silencing or driving anyone who shares those theological understandings out of The Episcopal Church.

Presiding Bishop, I share these things with you and my fellow Bishops, not as a parting shot as I prepare to leave The Episcopal Church to join the Anglican Church of North America, but rather as one final attempt to urge you and the leadership of this Church to rethink the current path you are on. The current political and social agenda and political correctness influencing the Church, has caused it to lose its way, negatively impacting the Church's ability to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a cradle Episcopalian and Christian, it has broken my heart to see the rapid decline of the Church over the past several years. At its best, The Episcopal Church has so much to offer the wider body of Christ, unfortunately, it is currently far from its best. It doesn't have to be this way. Presiding Bishop, I urge you and my fellow Bishops and leadership of the Church to return to your roots before it is too late – return to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In so doing, God will bless the Church and use the Church to be a blessing to the world around us, sharing the true love of Christ with ALL people.

Faithfully Your Brother in Christ,
+Bill
The Rt. Rev. William H. Love
IX Bishop of Albany (Resigned)
