

The Rev. Charles Holt

August 19, 2022

Dear Presiding Bishop Michael, Bishop John, Fr. Gibbes, Standing Committee members, clergy and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida,

To say that I am disappointed with the Court of Review's report on the election proceedings fails to adequately express my heart and mind. The confidence entrusted in me through my nomination and election as your next Bishop Coadjutor represents a sacred responsibility. Thank you all for your faith in God in participating in this holy process. I entirely agree with this line from the report, "The leadership of the Diocese of Florida was devoted and faithful in their attempt to ensure a fair election."

That said, over 10% of those voting members made a legal objection that calls into question the rules and procedures of the electing convention and therefore its legitimacy. The court has determined that there was not a "validly constituted Convention" because there was not a quorum in the clergy order, thus the actions of the convention are "null and void". Further they write that the several actions of the election process cast "a shadow over the legitimacy of the convention". And finally, they indicate that "changing its manner of voting two days prior to the election was fundamentally unfair to the Delegates of the Convention and the candidates".

The apostle Paul writes to Timothy: "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task" (1 Timothy 3:1). The process for electing such an overseer must match the nobility of the task and be above reproach. One of the things that I insist on in my own peacemaking ministry is "process satisfaction". We clearly do not have such process satisfaction.

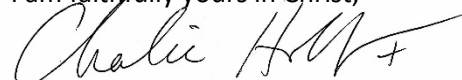
The election process must be cured for the good of the Diocese of Florida.

Therefore, in assent with the findings of the Court of Review, I have a moral responsibility to withdraw my acceptance of the election. I humbly ask that the Standing Committee take whatever steps it may deem appropriate to cure any irregularities in my election as Bishop Coadjutor at the May 14, 2022 Special Convention of the Diocese of Florida. I understand that this may include termination or suspension of the current consent process and that the Bishop may choose to convene another convention to elect a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Florida. I make this decision prayerfully and of my own volition.

Please know that it is my hope and desire to be your next bishop. If so confirmed and consecrated in good order, I will serve you with love, faithfulness, and wholeheartedness in the Holy Spirit.

In the meantime, I offer you this encouragement from our Lord, "Fear not little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

I am faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Holt" followed by a small cross symbol.

Charlie Holt+