



August 31, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ at St. Paul's, Oakwood:

I write today with an update about the disciplinary matter concerning the Rev. Daniel W. McClain that began in early May when I received a complaint about his conduct.

As you know, the Rev. McClain has been on administrative leave, with pay, during the Title IV disciplinary process within the Episcopal Church. Earlier this week, the [conference panel](#), a subset of the regional disciplinary board our diocese shares with several other dioceses moved to dissolve the administrative leave. This allows the Rev. McClain to return to work as your priest-in-charge.

As you learned recently from your senior warden, Judy Pritchard, your vestry voted earlier this month to have the Rev. McClain complete the final year of his contract as your priest-in-charge rather than calling him as rector. This Sunday, the Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, diocesan canon for transitions and congregational ministry, will be with you to answer questions about the clergy transition that lies ahead. The Rev. McClain will resume his ministry with you on September 11, and my office and I remain committed to supporting your congregation as you discern your future.

The substance of the disciplinary complaint against the Rev. McClain remains unresolved, and the [reference panel](#)—a group that includes the intake officer for disciplinary complaints, the president of the regional disciplinary board, and me— has determined that [conciliation](#) will be the next step. This means that in the coming weeks a trained third-party facilitator will work to bring about healing, restitution, and reconciliation for everyone involved.

I continue to pray that you will love and respect one another, Father Dan, and his family through this time, demonstrating the kindness and care that Christ bids us to show one another. Thank you for your perseverance in these difficult days.

George Wayne Smith
Bishop Provisional
Diocese of Southern Ohio