

August 1, 2026

**In the Matter of The Most Rev'd Stephen D. Wood
(Archbishop, The Anglican Church in North America
Bishop, Diocese of the Carolinas)**

**ORDER REGARDING MOTION TO COMPEL PRODUCTION OF BOARD OF
INQUIRY MATERIALS**

The Court having reviewed the Respondent's MOTION TO COMPEL PRODUCTION OF BOARD OF INQUIRY INVESTIGATION DOCUMENTS, and the Province's RESPONSE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

The Respondent's Motion to Compel is **DENIED**.

In short, the Board of Inquiry process is confidential, both as to the participants and as to the contents. This Court will not breach that confidentiality.

This Court's Denial on the confidentiality basis is sufficient. However, in the interests of transparency for the good of the Church, the Court will elaborate on its reasoning.

The sole job of the Board of Inquiry is to review the accusations and to decide if there is enough evidence that a Canonical offense has occurred. The Board of Inquiry did so in this matter. The Board of Inquiry investigation does not overlap with this Court's inquiry. It is its own closed system, and this Court will not second-guess its processes nor will it breach the confidentiality. The Board of Inquiry is like a Grand Jury proceeding in the secular system. Grand Jury evidence and proceedings are similarly confidential and completely separate from any court proceedings that might follow.

This Court does not independently see or review any evidence that was reviewed by the Board of Inquiry. This Court does not independently speak to any members of the Board of Inquiry. This Court will make its decision in the matter of Archbishop Steve Woods solely on the Presentment pleading, the responses by the Archbishop, and the evidence submitted at trial.

The Provincial prosecutor has stated that she has turned over all documents received by her from the Board of Inquiry, and the Respondent has stated that he is not suggesting that the Provincial prosecutor is withholding anything. However, the Archbishop goes on to say: "The Archbishop has ... been contacted by a witness who submitted exculpatory and/or impeachment information to the BOI through the Director of Safeguarding and Canonical Affairs." He suggests that there was exculpatory evidence that the Board of Inquiry heard that he has not received and is therefore suggesting impropriety on the part of the Province.

However, even by the Archbishop's own words, he knows who that witness is. And that witness presumably knows what evidence he or she submitted and that evidence could be given to the Archbishop. That witness can be called upon at trial, assuming that he or she has made herself available for depositions. Therefore, there is no need to breach the confidentiality of the Board of Inquiry process, and this Court will not entertain what seems to be a back-door way of casting doubt on the Board of Inquiry process.

This Court has previously ordered that all documentary evidence that might be submitted at trial must be exchanged between the parties, and that all witnesses that either party wishes to present at trial must make themselves available for deposition.

There will be no surprise evidence submitted at trial. There will be no surprise witnesses. Both parties have had AMPLE time to review all evidence and prepare their cases. This trial will take place over six days beginning on September 7, 2026. Each side will have 15 hours total to present their case and to cross-examine witnesses and make any arguments to the Court.

The previous Scheduling Order dated July 6, 2026 remains in effect.

/s/ +Ryan Reed
The Right Reverend Ryan Reed
President of the Court for the Trial of a Bishop

/s/ Katherine R. Grosskopf
Katherine R. Grosskopf
Presiding Officer, Court for the Trial of a Bishop