

**R. WICKS STEPHENS II**

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
535 Smithfield Street, Suite 910  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

March 27, 2008

The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop  
The Episcopal Church  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Re: The Rt. Rev. William J. Cox

Dear Bishop Schori:

The purpose of this letter is to challenge your letter of March 12, 2008, pronouncing the deposition of my client, Bishop William J. Cox.

As has been drawn to your attention, your purported deposition of Bishop Cox is unsupported by the canonically required consent of a majority of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote on the proposed deposition of Bishop Cox which was presented to the House of Bishops at its last meeting. Accordingly, the deposition of Bishop Cox was not consented to as required, and your pronouncement of his deposition as a Bishop is without effect and void.

The attempt by your Chancellor David Beers and the Secretary of the House of Bishops to overcome that failure of consent by reading Canon IV.9.2 to require merely the consent of a majority of those Bishops present in the House when the vote was called does not cure the deficiency. While assuredly your Chancellor has the right to offer interpretations of the canons when ambiguity so requires, nothing justifies a reading of Canon IV.9.2 that is directly contrary to that canon's plain language and meaning. The requirement of a mere majority of those present is not foreign to the canons. See, e.g., Canon III.12.8(d). By contrast, when Canon IV.9.2 clearly and unambiguously calls for a majority of "the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote," it means precisely a majority of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote (see, Art.I.2), and not a mere majority of those present at the time.

In light of the foregoing, demand is hereby made that you right the wrong by which you have defamed Bishop Cox by immediately withdrawing your pronouncement of deposition and that you publish your withdrawal in the same manner and to the same extent you have published your wrongful actions.

Very truly yours,

R. Wicks Stephens II  
Attorney for the Rt. Rev. William J. Cox

cc: David Booth Beers, Esq.  
Your Distribution List