# ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America

VS.

February, 1999

The Right Reverend Charles I. Jones, III

### PRESENTMENT

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Comes now The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (the "Church") and, pursuant to Title IV of its Constitution and Canons, brings forth the following charges of Immorality (Title IV, Canon 1.1(b)) and Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy (Title IV, Canon 1.1(j)) against the Right Reverend Charles I. Jones, III ("Bishop Jones" or the "Bishop"), to be tried in the Ecclesiastical Trial Court of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

# I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 1. On or about January 10, 1998, the Rt. Rev'd Frank T. Griswold. Presiding Bishop. received from Ms. Do of Trenton, Kentucky, a sworn statement containing allegations of Offenses against the Rt. Rev'd Charles I. Jones, III, Bishop of Montana (the "Charge"). The alleged acts of which Ms. I complains allegedly occurred prior to Bishop Jones' election to the episcopate, and while the Reverend Jones was pastor at Trinity Episcopal Church in Russellville, Kentucky.
- 2. By memorandum dated April 20, 1998, Presiding Bishop Griswold informed the Review Committee as to the nature of the alleged Offenses and enclosed for the Review Committee a copy of Ms. Des Charge.

- 3. The Review Committee met on May 28, 1998 and determined that, if the facts alleged in Ms. Det's verified statement are true, then an Offense or Offenses may have occurred.
- 4. Pursuant to Tile IV, Canon 3.40, the Review Committee, through Lay Assessor Jack W. Burtch, Jr., submitted to the Church Attorney on or about June 12, 1998 a written general statement of the charge and the facts alleged to support the Charge. Thereafter, the Church Attorney undertook an investigation of the Charge. Title IV, Canon 3.41.
- 5. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Church Attorney submitted a report to the Review Committee as provided for by Title IV, Canon 3.42. After receipt of the report, the Review Committee convened to consider the report and whether or not a Presentment should issue. The Review Committee determined that the information before it, if proved at Trial, provided reasonable cause to believe that (i) the Offenses of Immorality and Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy were committed, and (ii) Respondent Bishop Jones committed the Offenses. Title IV, Canon 3.43. More specifically, the Review Committee resolved that it had reasonable cause to believe that sexual exploitation has occurred which constitutes the Offenses of Immorality and Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy under Title IV, Canon 1, and caused the Church Attorney to prepare this Presentment accordingly. Title IV, Canon 3.44(c).

# II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

6. In November 1977, began attending Trinity Episcopal Church in Russellville, Kentucky with her family. Charles I. Jones, III was the pastor at Trinity Episcopal Church and baptized both of Ms. Des children. Reverend Jones and his wife are godparents to Ms. Des daughter,

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# III. OFFENSES

### COUNT 1

- 29. Paragraphs 6 through 26 are incorporated as if specifically set forth herein.
- 30. The foregoing conduct of Bishop Jones constitutes acts of sexual exploitation. Title IV, Canon 14.4(a)(3).
- 31. The foregoing conduct of Bishop Jones constitutes the Offense of Immorality in contravention of Title IV, Canon 1.1(b).

# COUNT 2

- 32. Paragraphs 6 through 26 are incorporated as if specifically set forth herein.
- 33. The foregoing conduct of Bishop Jones constitutes acts of sexual exploitation. Title IV, Canon 14.4(a)(3).
- 34. The foregoing conduct of Bishop Jones constitutes the Offense of Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy in contravention of Title IV, Canon 1.1(j).

Wherefore, premises considered, The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America respectfully requests that the Ecclesiastical Trial Court enter judgment in favor of the Church and against Bishop Jones and impose a Sentence accordingly.

Respectfully submitted by
The Protestant Episcopal Church in the
United States of America

By +// Reverend Robert M. Moody President, Title IV Review Committee