

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON
STANDING COMMITTEE

In the Matter of Christopher B. Platt ("Respondent")

PRESENTMENT

The Standing Committee (hereinafter the "Committee") serves as the Diocesan Review Committee per Title IV, Canon 3.1, of the Canons of the Episcopal Church (hereinafter "Canon" or "Canons").

The Committee convened on June 23, 2003, at the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Lexington, Kentucky, beginning at 3:30 p.m. The following persons, being a majority of all Committee members, were present: the Rev. David A. Boyd (President), The Rev. Anisa Cottrel Willis, Bob Voll, Millie Burkhart and Bill Hayes.

In accordance with Title IV, Canon 3.14, the Committee convened to consider Charges made against the Respondent as set forth in the letter dated March 26, 2003, from the Rt. Rev. Stacy F. Sauls, Bishop of Lexington, to the Rev. David Boyd and the letter dated April 10, 2003, from the Rev. David A. Boyd to Jack Porter, Esq. Copies of these letters are attached to this Presentment and incorporated herein by reference. The Charges are that the Respondent committed two offenses, crime and conduct unbecoming a Member of the Clergy, in violation of Title IV, Canon 1.1, Subsections (a) and (j), respectively (hereinafter the "Offenses").

In considering these Charges, the Committee reviewed the May 29, 2003, Report of Jacob L. Porter, Esq. A copy of the Report is attached to this Presentment and incorporated by reference. The Committee also received and considered the Summary of Financial Improprieties Related to Father Christopher Platt and supporting schedules of cash and credit card transactions.

It is the Committee's conclusion that the information received concerning the Respondent, if proved at a Trial before an Ecclesiastical Court, provides the Reasonable Cause, to believe the Offenses asserted were committed and that Respondent committed the Offenses.

In support of this Conclusion, the Committee finds that the evidence discussed below supports each of the Offenses:

- (a) Between May 15, 2002, and December 2, 2002, the Respondent misappropriated funds by unlawfully using his signature authority for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund checking account to issue himself six checks totaling \$6,512.50. These checks were written without the Bishop's knowledge, consent or authority, deceptively recorded and concealed from the Bishop. At least three checks were deposited in a checking account maintained and controlled by the Respondent but unknown to the Bishop.
- (b) When confronted on March 20, 2003, with evidence of the six checks, the Respondent continued to conceal his personal use of the misappropriated funds by asserting that he had no memory of the transactions. Respondent has given no accounting for the use of these funds and continues to conceal the use of the misappropriated funds.
- (c) The Respondent has written numerous checks from checking accounts maintained and controlled by Respondent and into which Respondent deposited funds belonging to the Diocese or Respondent's parish. These checks, which total approximately \$27,000, were written by the Respondent to himself or to third parties for his personal benefit. These transactions are listed in the Summary of Financial Improprieties Related to Father Christopher Platt and supporting


schedules, copies of which are attached to this Presentment and incorporated by reference.

- (d) The Respondent used debit and credit cards belonging to St. Augustine's Chapel to obtain cash, goods, or services for his personal benefit and without authority. These transactions, which total approximately \$3,500, were concealed from the Diocese and Respondent's parish.
- (e) The Respondent has refused to furnish records and information concerning the transactions mentioned in (c) and (d) above.

This Presentment has been adopted by a majority vote of all Committee members.

The Committee directs that a signed, duplicate copies of this Presentment be served on the Respondent, the Rt. Rev. Stacy F. Sauls, David Davidson, Esq., and Buckner Hinkle, Jr., Esq.

This the 23rd day of June, 2003.



The Rev. David A. Boyd
President