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Statement from The Standing Committee
Of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina
July 3, 2012

It was with great sadness that we heard of the decision of the Presiding Bishop's office and Bishop Clayton Matthews to "initiate a disciplinary process" against nine faithful Bishops of the Church (including Bishop Salmon) for their "action in signing affidavits in opposition" to The Episcopal Church's motions for Summary Judgment in the Dioceses of Quincy and Fort Worth. These Bishops are facing disciplinary actions for simply expressing their faithfully held factual understanding and belief that The Episcopal Church is not the unitary hierarchical body claimed by its attorneys in litigation. That this action has been possible validates our concerns with the changes made to the Title IV disciplinary canons. That such an attempt is being made to silence the remaining conservative voices in the church is a troubling sign of what may lie ahead. As the details of the charges and their nature are made clear in the days ahead, their seriousness and character will become evident. Until then, we as the Standing Committee wish to express first our unswerving support for Bp. Salmon and the eight other faithful bishops facing disciplinary action along with him. We similarly express our united contempt for such a predictably partisan use of the disciplinary canons and we pray that those responsible will have the good sense to promptly drop these proceedings. They can only bring further injury and dishonor to the Church we love.

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