

CASES 2017-06 and 2017-07

TE DON CLEMENTS

VS.

BLUE RIDGE PRESBYTERY

**DECISION ON REQUEST FOR REFERENCE and
DECISION ON COMPLAINT**

October 19, 2017

Blue Ridge Presbytery (BRP) requested a Reference for the SJC to hear and decide this Complaint. *BCO* 41-3. The Record of the Case prepared and presented by BRP does not affirmatively demonstrate any bias on the part of the entire presbytery or any action of the Complainant that would require all presbyters to disqualify themselves from hearing the Complaint. The Record does not demonstrate any very serious division, any constitutional questions, or any new, delicate or difficult issues presented by the Complaint to warrant reference as contemplated by *BCO* 41-2. The Constitution provides, "... it is better that every court should discharge the duty assigned it under the law of the Church." *BCO* 41-5. For these reasons, the request for reference is denied. BRP shall hear and decide the Complaint.

The Complaint in 2017-07 is answered with reference to the SJC's decision in 2017-06.

The SJC approved these decisions unanimously on the following roll call vote:

Bankson, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Waters, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>
Dowling, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>	