

/s/ RE Howie Donahoe ¹⁹

CASE No. 2022-05

CROUSE et al.

v.

NORTHWEST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

DECISION ON COMPLAINT

March 2, 2023

The SJC finds the above-named Complaint out of order and moot.

The Complaint involves judicial process against three Ruling Elders. On July 23, 2022, the Session dismissed all charges and ended the judicial process, thus removing the action against which complaint was made. Also on July 23, those REs voluntarily resigned from the Session and the Session dissolved their calls per their request. Since the underlying dispute has been settled and the charges dismissed, the Complaint alleging errors in that process is moot.

This Decision was recommended by the SJC Officers and the SJC approved the Decision by vote of 23-0 on the following roll call vote. Ruling Elders indicated by ^R.

In the 12 months between June 2021 and June 2022, our presbyteries voted 72-13 for the change (an 82% majority of all presbyteries). An 85% majority of the 3,869 individual votes cast in the presbyteries were also in favor (3,305-564). The change was approved and enacted by the 49th GA by vote of 1,179-363 (a 76% majority). All but one of the presbyteries of the 24 SJC members voted in favor of the change, with the commissioner votes in those 24 Presbyteries totaling 1,251-94 (i.e., 93% in favor).

¹⁹ I confess I concurred six years ago in the SJC's October 2016 Decision in *Troxell v. Arizona* (M45GA, 2017, p. 514) That was poor judgment on my part. I regret doing so. I later came to believe I had misunderstood BCO 32-20. This new understanding was first reflected in my February 2020 Concurring Opinion in Case 2019-08: *Ganzel v. Central Florida* (M48GA, 2021, p. 750).

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bankson	<i>Concur</i>	Eggert ^R	<i>Concur</i>	Neikirk ^R	<i>Concur</i>
Bise ^R	<i>Concur</i>	Ellis	<i>Concur</i>	Pickering ^R	<i>Concur</i>
Carrell ^R	<i>Concur</i>	Garner	<i>Concur</i>	Ross	<i>Concur</i>
Coffin	<i>Concur</i>	Greco	<i>Concur</i>	Sartorius	<i>Concur</i>
Donahoe ^R	<i>Concur</i>	Kooistra	<i>Concur</i>	Terrell ^R	<i>Concur</i>
Dowling ^R	<i>Concur</i>	Lee	<i>Concur</i>	Waters	<i>Concur</i>
M. Duncan ^R	<i>Concur</i>	Lucas	<i>Absent</i>	White ^R	<i>Concur</i>
S. Duncan ^R	<i>Concur</i>	McGowan	<i>Concur</i>	Wilson ^R	<i>Concur</i>

CASE No. 2022-06

TE RYAN BIESE et al

v.

TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY

October 20, 2022

The Complainants withdrew this Complaint on July 18, 2022 and the SJC noted such on October 20, 2022.

CASE NO. 2022-07

MR. PAUL HARRELL et al.

v.

COVENANT PRESBYTERY

DECISION ON APPEAL

March 2, 2023