

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

When each judiciary board member took their oath, we promised to assure that the legitimately aggrieved members of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. are heard, that fairness prevails throughout the brotherhood, and that equal protection and due process are and continue to be the right of every Church member.

The people who voted for us did so with the belief and hope that we would discharge our responsibilities and duties with the utmost of respect and prayerful consideration to our God, the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, and the people blessed and served by that Constitution.

Failure to responsibly discharge these responsibilities with the proper time, consideration and attention they require is not an option for me. If I was not going to faithfully discharge my duties, or for some unforeseen reason was unable to discharge my duties, I would (in respect to the laws of our church's Constitutional assembly) step aside/down and allow someone capable, able and willing, to do so. I've grown up under the doctrines of holiness and righteousness. Those Church of God in Christ principles mean something to me, and they will not allow me to look the other way.

Our Judicial records, orders and decisions must be able to stand and withstand the scrutiny of the American Justice and Judicial Systems. Upon reading our communications, any competent court representative or officer of the law should have the utmost respect for and even appreciation for our Godly and legal processes. We cannot afford to operate as if we are in some special protected and/or obscure 'bubble'. We must conduct ourselves as responsible officers of the legal systems of our church.

As a church and legally responsible professional organization, we will be judged by our judgments; decided (upon) by our decisions; and evaluated by our evaluations. Therefore, with careful consideration and contemplation we must make judicial decisions and orders that are clear, equitable, fair and just, considering only the evidences presented within our court, ensuring that every litigant/client brought before this court has received their just hearing.

Those we lead must be able to believe in, respect and have confidence in this Judiciary Board, the Judicial process and how this Court integrally works within the framework of the entire National leadership system of our church.

The case concerning Bishop Kyles and all other cases we shall adjudicate are not the only ones on trial here; the Judiciary Board itself is on trial, several of the leadership of our church is on trial, and the church as a respected and viable entity in the world, is on trial. We must be integral and ethical in every possible way.

The scripture states that "*judgment must begin at the house of the Lord*". The world is certainly watching how we in the church are dealing with our internal conflicts and struggles. But more importantly, God will hold us accountable for the decisions and choices we make concerning ourselves, our colleagues, our brothers and sisters and all those we are called upon to serve.

At the 2019 April Call meeting, I arrived the first day at Mason Temple for an early meeting. The entire sanctuary was empty, except for two mothers. Those mothers were looking for the perfect seat in the house where they would have a clear view of Chairman Thuston and the Presiding Bishop in the meeting of the General Assembly. The picture I snapped of them from behind in the empty auditorium was time stamped at 7:34 a.m. The General Assembly meeting was scheduled to start at approximately 11 a.m. I am motivated by the commitment, trust and confidence those two Mothers have placed in us to uphold the high standards of our church.

It is with these and other thoughts in mind that I present the following charges set forth in this petition.

Justice Jonathan Saffold, Jr.