



TEXAS SOUTHEAST FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Church of God In Christ, Inc.

P.O. Box 88110

Houston, Texas 77228-0110

Bishop Kurt L. Thompson, Interim Prelate

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”

II Corinthians 2:14-16

Bishop John H. Sheard
Chairman, Board of Bishops
Email: jhsheard@theboardofbishops.org

May 4, 2021

RE: Response to Statement of Alleged Violation(s)

In as much as it is the findings of the Board of Bishops Grievance Committee that there exist just cause to believe that I have:

- 1) violated Article VIII, §D, ¶1(a) of the Church of God In Christ Constitution by failing to adhere to or abide by the rules and regulations of this church requiring the issuance of Notice of Dismissal following the Jurisdictional Investigatory Committee determination that just cause did not exist to have a trial of Pastor Rufus Kyles, Jr., and,
- 2) violated Article VIII, §D, ¶1(h) of the Church of God in Christ Constitution by willfully or maliciously failing to make an account and report regarding Evangelist Temple funds.

I wish to submit this communication as my formal notice to invoke rule 7(c) according to the rules of the Board of Bishops Judicial Process and Procedures. I admit to the violations set forth in the statement of Alleged Violations and I waive my right to a adjudicatory hearing.

Accompanying this communication is a letter from the General Board that, although do not dismiss my action, I would submit my actions should have followed the Church of God in Christ Constitution, I believe that our culture has always encouraged us to follow leadership. This Jurisdiction since my appointment was, and is, yet under the auspices of the General Board, and as Interim Prelate, I serve at their pleasure.

While I strongly believe that these charges brought by members of the Kyles family, is an attempt to use the system as a tool to retaliate against me, I humbly submit this communication and I await your response and I am willing to submit to the great leadership directives from the Board of Bishops.

In His Service,

Bishop Kurt L. Thompson, Interim Prelate
Texas Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

GENERAL BOARD
Church Of God In Christ
930 Mason Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

March 16, 2021

Board of Bishops Grievance Committee
Church of God In Christ
c/o Bishop Roy Dixon, Chairman
9341 Crest Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91977

Dear Grievance Committee:

It has been brought to our attention that a complaint has been filed against Bishop Kurt Thompson concerning Elder Rufus Kyles, Jr. and Evangelist Temple Church Of God In Christ in Houston, Texas. We understand that your Committee is presently reviewing the matter. We write this letter to clarify the circumstances surrounding Bishop Thompson's involvement with Evangelist Temple and Texas Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

On June 5, 2015, the General Board suspended, then, Bishop Rufus Kyles, Jr. from his pastoral duties at Evangelist Temple and his episcopal duties at Texas Southeast First under the General Assembly resolution against misconduct passed in November 2002 (the "2002 Misconduct Resolution"), in response to certain allegations of misconduct made against him by Gabrielle Desiree Bilal. The suspension was to remain in place pending the outcome of the allegations brought before the Board of Bishops.

As you know, on July 5, 2018, the Board of Bishops issued a final order and judgment (the "July 2018 Order") against Bishop Kyles, recommending his removal from the bishopric of the Church of God in Christ. The Judiciary Board sustained the July 2018 Order in May 2019. The General Board issued an Executive Order in August 2019 removing Bishop Kyles from the Office of Bishop and relieving him from all ecclesiastical authority thereto. As such, the General Board appointed Bishop Thompson to serve as interim bishop of Texas Southeast First until a new bishop is assigned to the jurisdiction. The General Assembly ratified these actions of the General Board on November 12, 2019.


In addition to the claims before the Board of Bishops, a complaint was filed against Bishop Kyles by the membership of Evangelist Temple, which was referred to the Pastors and Elders Council of Texas Southeast First for further review and adjudication. In light of the complaint, on November 19, 2019, the General Board sent, now, Elder Rufus Kyles a letter informing him that he was still under suspension from the pastorate of Evangelist Temple until the charges filed against him by the membership are resolved by the Pastors and Elders Council of Texas Southeast First.

Therefore, Elder Kyles has remained under suspension by the General Board and Bishop Kurt Thompson, acting under the direction of the General Board, was never instructed by the General Board to release Elder Kyles from suspension. We understand that the Pastors and Elders Council of Texas Southeast First will be holding a trial soon to adjudicate the matter.

On February 3, 2021, the General Board met with Elder Kyles and Bishop Thompson and told them that the Board would provide its final directives on the matter by April 3, 2021.

We trust that this clarifies Bishop Thompson's involvement in this matter. Feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Respectfully Yours,

DocuSigned by:

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Bishop Sedgwick Daniels.
Secretary, General Board
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

cc: Members of the General Board
Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Sr., Assistant General Board Secretary
Bishop John H. Sheard, Chairman of the Board of Bishops