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Pastor Herbert Winston  
2020 Silver Oaks  
Orange, Texas 77632  
(409) 988-6940  
herbertwinston0@gmail.com

December 20, 2023

Bishop Joel H. Lyle Jr.  
General Secretary  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.  
930 Mason Street  
Memphis, Tennessee 38126  
jlyles@cogic.org

Bishop Albert Galbraith  
Chairman, Board of Bishops  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.  
3700 Plymouth Drive  
North Highland, CA 95660  
albertgalbraith@comf5.com

Bishop Roy Dixon  
Chairman B. O. B. Grievance Committee  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.  
9341 Crest Drive  
Spring Valley, California 91977  
bishoproydixon.4th@gmail.com

Bishop Adrian D. Williams  
Secretary, Board of Bishops  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.  
243 Smoke Rise Trace  
Peachtree City, GA 31313  
adwill7@bellsouth.net

**Via Electronic and  
First Class Mail**

Greetings,

This letter shall serve as notification, of my Petition to the Board of Bishops Judicial Committee of a complaint I am filing against Bishop Desty C. Bell, Jurisdictional Bishop of Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

In accordance with the Board of Bishops Rule 3, I submit the following,

- As of this date, I have not retained legal counsel, but I have asked and authorized Elder Ronald E. Stidham and Pastor Moses Tyson, Jr., members of the Church of God in Christ, to represent and assist me in this matter.
- I hereby certify Bishop Bell has been provided a copy of the complaint with accompanying exhibits by USPS mail.
- This complaint is brought against Bishop Bell in his capacity of Jurisdictional Bishop

Sincerely,

Herbert Winston

Encl:

CC: Bishop Destry Bell

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Pastor Herbert Winston  
400 W. Thomas Blvd  
Port Arthur, Texas 77640  
(409) 988-6940  
herbertwinstin0@gmail.com

December 12, 2023

To: Chairman of the Board of Bishops; Bishop Albert Galbraith  
Secretary of the Board of Bishops, Bishop Avery Williams  
Grievance Committee Chairman; Bishop Roy Dixon

Dear Sirs:

Please be advised that this document serves as my official authorization granting Elder Moses Tyson, Jr., and Elder Ronald Stidham the right to confer and assist in the case before the Board of Bishops related to the actions of Bishop Destry Bell, Sr. This case currently consists of charges before the Board of Bishops, and I give authorization to Elder Moses Tyson, Jr., and Elder Ronald Stidham to work on my behalf.

Both individuals - Elder Tyson and Elder Stidham - have my express authority to speak and submit correspondence on my behalf until a satisfactory resolution has been reached

Respectfully,



Pastor Herbert Winston

**BOARD OF BISHOPS**  
**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**  
Of the  
**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC**

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PASTOR HERBERT WINSTON

Complainant

vs.

BISHOP DESTRY C. BELL, SR. ,

Respondent

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Case Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Pursuant to the Official Manual; Article VIII; Section D**

**COMPLAINANTS PETITION OF OFFICIAL CHARGES**

Come Now Pastor Herbert Winston, member and Pastor of the White Rose Church of God in Christ, 400 W. Thomas Boulevard, Port Arthur, Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Complainant, and files this herein petition against Bishop Destry C. Bell, Sr, Jurisdictional Prelate of the Texas Gulf Coast Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, with headquarters in Memphis Tennessee and allege and state as follows;

Bishop Destry Bell, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, did violate the statutes of The Bible, and the rules and regulations of the Official Manual of The Church of God in Christ, Inc. as follows;

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## NATURE OF THE CASE

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This is a case of a Jurisdictional Bishop who as a previous executive with the General Council of Pastors and Elders has chosen to pursue and persecute a 75-year-old pastor who no longer wants to be in his jurisdiction. Respondent actions appear to be punitive in nature and is Conduct unbecoming a bishop.

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## STATEMENT OF FACTS

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I am Pastor Herbert Winston, on October 10, 2023, I mailed a letter to Bishop Destry Bell, informing him that I was resigning my position from the Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. I was the Chairman of the jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council. This letter was like the letters sent to Respondent by nine (9) other pastors.

On October 12, 2023, I received an email from Respondent stating that he accepted my resignation, and he was taking over as pastor of White Rose COGIC.

On October 18, 2023, I sent Respondent a letter stating I had not resigned as Pastor of White Rose Church of God in Christ; I resigned as Chairman of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council. This letter was returned on November 30<sup>th</sup> because I had placed the wrong address on it. I corrected my error and mailed it again, I wanted to clarify what I thought was just a misunderstanding.

Because of a number of floods and storms, in the coastal city of Port Arthur, our current church is in a state of disrepair. After being inspected by the city of Port Arthur it was deemed unsafe and we are not allowed to use it. The city has offered to buy our property for approximately \$60,000.00.

Currently we are sharing service with Barnett Chapel, another COGIC church in Port Arthur affiliated with Bishop Tate. We share preaching duties and use separate offering plates for Barnett Chapel and White Rose.

On Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Bishop Bell contacted the members of White Rose and told them I had resigned as pastor and that he was now the pastor of the church. I called the members to reassure them that I was still the pastor. I was told Respondent stated they did not have to pay tithes since we are not in our building. The only reason we are not in our building is because the city of Port Arthur has condemned it.

Respondent has not answered any attempts to communicate with him.

1 **BRIEF OF COMPLAINANT**

2 **Count I**

3 ARTICLE VIII, §D, ¶ 1(b): MISFEASANCE, MALFEASANCE, OR NONFEASANCE IN OFFICE:

4 **Malfeasance:** Evil doing; ill conduct.

5 The commission of some act which is positively unlawful; the doing of an act  
6 which is wholly wrongful and unlawful; the doing of an act which person ought not  
7 to do at all or the unjust performance of some act which the party had no right or  
8 which he had contracted not to do. Comprehensive term including any wrongful  
9 conduct that affects, interrupts, or interferes with the performance of official duties.

{*Black’s Law Dictionary—Sixth Edition*}

9 Respondent has attempted to remove an appointed Church of God in Christ Pastor  
10 by interpreting a resignation from *Jurisdictional* duties to include resignation from the  
11 pastorate of White Rose Church of God in Christ.

11 Complainant had served as the Chairman of the Texas Gulf Coast Jurisdictional  
12 Pastors and Elders Council. This is the position from which I resigned on October 10,  
13 2023.<sup>1</sup> After receiving a letter from Respondent in which he stated, “I have resumed  
14 [pastorial] leadership...”, Complainant clarified his position in a subsequent letter<sup>2</sup>  
15 stating “I did not resign as pastor of White Rose Church of God in Christ”.

14 A position in a local church is *not* a jurisdictional position.

15 This unlawful, unconstitutional attempt to remove a Pastor is an act of Malfeasance.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 1 Jurisdictional duties resignation.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 2 Clarification of resignation.

1 **Count II**

2 **ARTICLE VIII, §D, ¶ 1(h): CONDUCT UNBECOMING A BISHOP**

3 The first sentence in the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, under the  
4 heading “Declarations of Faith and Preamble”, states

5 “We, the members of the Church Of God In Christ, hold the Holy Scriptures as  
6 contained in the Old and New Testaments of our Bible as our rule of Faith and  
Practice.”

7 According to our rule of faith and practice, Respondent has failed to display the  
8 characteristics the Word of God (and our Constitution) demands of him.

9 *Now a bishop (superintendent, overseer) must give no grounds for accusation*  
10 *but must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, circumspect and*  
11 *temperate and self-controlled; [he must be] sensible and well behaved and*  
12 *dignified and lead an orderly (disciplined) life; [he must be] hospitable*  
13 *[showing love for and being a friend to the believers, especially strangers or*  
14 *foreigners, and be] a capable and qualified teacher, (1 Timothy 3:2, AMP)*

15 From the Word of God we are instructed;

16 *Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead*  
17 *for the widow. “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, ...” (Isaiah*  
18 *1:17–18a, NKJV)*

19 By his actions, by his refusal to have any further dialogue, Respondents shows he is  
20 unwilling to follow peace with all men and that he is not willing to reason together.

21 This refusal is “Conduct Unbecoming a Bishop”.

I the Complainant, Pastor Herbert Winston, a member of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., as Complainants in the above and foregoing Petition, affirm that the statements and allegations contained therein are true, and correct on this Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

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Herbert Winston  
2020 Silver Oaks  
Orange, Texas 77632  
(409) 988-6940  
herbertwinston0@gmail.com

State of Texas

County of \_\_\_\_\_

Before me, \_\_\_\_\_ [Name and Character of Officer], on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Principal], known to me (or proved to me on the oath of \_\_\_\_\_ or through \_\_\_\_\_ [Description of Identity Card or Other Document] to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

(seal)

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Notary Public Signature



# Exhibit 1

Herbert Winston, Pastor  
White Rose COGIC  
400 W. Thomas Blvd  
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

October 10, 2023

Certified Mail # 7020 2450 0002 1146 8802

Bishop Destrý C. Bell

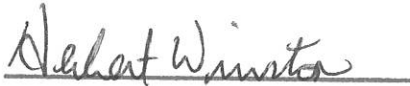
Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction  
3710 McHard Rd  
Missouri City, Texas, 77489

Dear Bishop Destrý C. Bell,

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation from all positions and duties in the Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction as of **October 10, 2023**.

I have appreciated the time here but have chosen to resign due to unduly financial burdens place on our district and to pursue other opportunities. My last day affiliated with the Texas Gulf Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction will be effective immediately this day **October 10, 2023**.

Thank you for your help and guidance during our association with the Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. I wish you well and much success in the future.



Herbert Winston, Pastor

White Rose COGIC  
400 West Thomas Blvd  
Port Arthur, TX 77640

10/18/2023

Bishop Destry C Bell

Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

1710 McHard Rd

Missouri City, TX 77489

Dear Bishop Bell,

This letter is to inform you that I received your email letter accepting my resignation of Texas Gulf Coast. However, I believe that there is a grave misunderstanding of the contents of the letter. I did not resign my position as Pastor of the White Rose COGIC. I did resign my position as chairman of the Pastors and Elders Council. The White Rose COGIC is no longer under the leadership of Texas Gulf Coast, and I still consider myself to be the Pastor of White Rose.

Thank you for your help and guidance during our association with Texas Gulf Coast. I wish you well and much success.

Thank you,

Herbert J. Winston Sr

Herbert J. Winston Sr

Pastor

