

CHURCH ATTORNEY'S STATEMENT OF OFFENSES IN RE: THE REV. DALE COLEMAN

Bruce L. Bonds, in my capacity as "Church Attorney" for the Diocese of Springfield, as provided for and defined in Canon IV.2 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, submits the following Statement of Offenses for consideration by the Hearing Panel:

1. At all relevant times, Respondent, the Rev. Dale Coleman, was canonically resident in the Diocese of Springfield.
2. As an ordained priest of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Springfield, Respondent, the Rev. Dale Coleman, was subject to the Standards of Conduct of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.
3. At all relevant times, Bishop Burgess was "Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Springfield", with authority over the Rev. Dale Coleman.
4. Bishop Burgess forwarded a pastoral directive letter to the Respondent on July 8, 2024, outlining certain restrictions on his ministry. **[Exhibit A]** Those restrictions included instructions that:
 - a. Respondent is "not to communicate in any manner with former parishioners, parish leaders or members of St. Andrews in Carbondale, St. Georges in Belleville, or the Chapel of St. James in Marion".
 - b. Respondent was limited to serving as a supply priest with Diocesan congregations to service at any one congregation not more than twice within a given month and on non-consecutive Sundays.
 - c. Respondent was to continue to write Ember Day letters to the Bishop as a means of sharing spiritual, physical, psychological, financial, relational progress, as well as challenges in this period of continued long-term recovery.
5. Respondent violated and failed to honor the pastoral directive, including but not limited to:
 - a. Forwarding e-mail and/or e-mails to recipients to attend a Bible study, some of whom were known to be members of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Carbondale and others who may have been members as well. **[Exhibit B and Exhibit C]**
 - b. In violation of the pastoral directive, Respondent celebrated the "Holy Eucharist" on consecutive Sundays of August 11 and 18, 2024.

- c. Respondent further violated and failed to honor the pastoral directive by failing to submit the required Ember Day letters.
6. Respondent was placed on administrative leave pursuant to Title IV.7.3. of the Canons of the Episcopal church by way of communication from Bishop Burgess to Respondent dated May 27, 2026 **[Exhibit D]**.
7. Subsequent to placing the Respondent on administrative leave, Bishop Burgess forwarded a pastoral directive on May 28, 2026. Among the provisions of the pastoral directive, Respondent was "not to discuss [the] matter with anyone except a professional counsel or attorney, advisor and investigators employed or assigned by the Diocese." Respondent has and continues to violate this restriction by engaging in communications with individuals who are not his professional counsel or attorney, advisor or investigators. **[Exhibit E]**
8. Respondent responded to the Bishop's May 28, 2026 pastoral directive at 11:30 a.m. on May 28, 2026 indicating, "I will be completely compliant" **[Exhibit F]**
9. Respondent has further engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy in violation of Canon IV.1.(h)(8). By conduct and activities, including but not limited to:
 - a. Being arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol on February 20, 2026 in Williamson County, Illinois;
 - b. Failing to advise his Bishop of the arrest and charge; and
 - c. Transmitting communications to the Bishop and the Bishop's staff of a hostile and insulting tone and manner, including but not limited to an email dated Friday, June 12, 2026 at 11:05 a.m. **[Exhibit G]** and Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 1:34 p.m. **[Exhibit H]**.

WHEREFORE, the Church Attorney requests a hearing on the allegations contained in this Statement of Offenses, and for such relief as the Hearing Panel shall deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce L. Bonds
Church Attorney
Diocese of Springfield



The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

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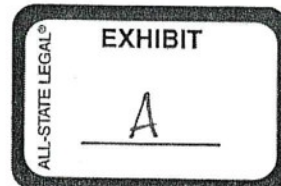
Priscilla and Aquila
Being July 8, 2024

The Reverend Fr. Dale Coleman
2005 Woodriver Drive—Apartment C
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Father Coleman:

I take this opportunity to mark the occasion of your retirement from full-time parish ministry and to articulate a modified pastoral directive based on the progress that has been made since my previous pastoral directives of November 3, 2023, January 25, 2024, and May 24, 2024. I am providing Dr. Lenore Killam a copy of this modification letter in recognition of her role as president of the Disciplinary Board and as the means of complying with Canon IV.6.10 and IV.6.9.

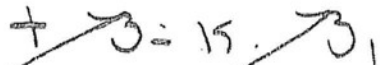
- ❖ You have served your last Sunday as rector of St. Andrew's in Carbondale. Being placed on "leave of absence" no longer applies. In recognition of your retirement on June 30, 2024 and for having navigated my pastoral directions to this degree, I recognize your standing in this Diocese as a retired priest in good standing under the following extended pastoral directives:
 - You may serve as Sunday supply priest within Diocesan congregations as long as you do not serve any one congregation more than twice within a given month, and on non-consecutive.
 - You may not return to any parish within this Diocese wherein you have served as rector (St. Andrew's in Carbondale, St. George's in Belleville and St. James' Chapel in Marion) without my express written consent.
 - You are not to accept invitations to social, educational or programmatic events from any of the three afore mentioned congregations.
 - You may return to wearing clerical attire and vesture that identifies you as a priest of the Church.
 - I expect that you do not supply, request vocational license to serve, or offer yourself vocationally to congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) until January 1, 2025 as the means of demonstrating full control over your own sobriety under my continued, direct supervision.
 - I define sobriety as abstinence from mind-altering drugs and chemicals including all alcohol.
 - You are to continue writing Ember Day letters to your Bishop as the means of sharing spiritual, physical, psychological, financial, relational progress as well as challenges in this period of continued, long-term recovery.
 - You are to continue attending at least one twelve-step meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous a week, without interruption.
 - I continue to reserve the right to order a urine or hair sample test at a certified diagnostic lab to prove sobriety as defined above.
 - You are not to communicate in any manner with former parishioners, parish leaders or members of St. Andrew's in Carbondale, St. George's in Belleville or the Chapel of St. James in Marion. If communication is necessary, that request should come to me or my Canon to the Ordinary.



I continue to pray for your complete and total recovery. Specifically, that your sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy (BCP pg. 458). I also pray for the success of this Diocese in our God given mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am available for questions that you may have by contacting the Diocesan office during regular business hours.

In the peace of God, which passeth all understanding;


The Right Reverend Brian K. Burgess, DD
XII Springfield

cc: The Reverend Canon Mark Evans, Canon to the Ordinary
Mr. Kevin Babb, Esq., Chancellor
Dr. Lenore Killam, President of the Disciplinary Board

Intake Report

Respondent: The Rev. Dale Coleman, Non-Parochial

Complainant: The Rt. Rev. Brian Burgess – Diocesan Springfield

May 2, 2025

On, or directly after, the date of April 29, 2025, Bishop Brian Burgess received a forwarded email written by Fr. Dale Coleman inviting the recipients to a Bible study at his office. Two of the recipients are known to me to be members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Carbondale, IL and others may also be members. Regardless of the number, communication with former parishioners of St. Andrew's by Fr. Coleman was expressly forbidden without a request to the Bishop or the Canon to the Ordinary in Bishop Burgess' Pastoral Letter to Fr. Coleman dated July 8, 2024.

This disobedience to a Pastoral Directive is a violation of Canon IV.4.1.d.

Respectfully,

The Rev. Canon Mark Evans

Intake Officer – Diocese of Springfield

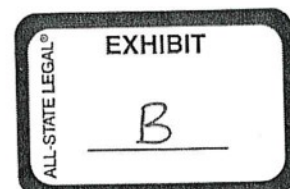
cc via email:

The Rev. Dale Coleman, Respondent

The Rt. Rev. Brian Burgess, XII Springfield

Dr. Lenore Killam, President of the Disciplinary Board

Mr. Bruce Bonds, Church Attorney





The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield
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To: Bruce Bonds, Esq. (Bbonds@heylroyster.com)

From: Lenore Killam (lkillam128@comcast.net)

May 30, 2025

Dear Mr. Bonds,

I write to you today in my capacity as the President of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield Disciplinary Board. The matter that I bring to your attention is concern about violation of the Pastoral Directive issued by Bishop Brian Burgess to Fr. Dale Coleman, dated July 8, 2024 (Attachment A). Pursuant to Canon IV.12, the reference panel met and determined to refer this matter to the hearing panel. This determination was approved by a majority of the reference panel vote on Monday, May 26th, 2025.

One of the conditions of the Pastoral Directive is to have no contact with parishioners from certain former parishes. On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Fr. Coleman sent an email identified in the subject line as "For Thursday, May 1, 2025 Class on Who is Jesus, in His world of the First Century" in violation of this condition. On Wednesday, April 30, Bishop Burgess filed the Title IV complaint with Intake Officer Canon Mark Evans (Attachment B).

On Tuesday, May 13, Fr. Coleman again emailed a sermon entitled "Online Mass and Sermon at the Episcopal Parish of St. Paul's, Mother's Day/Easter IV May 11, 2025" to several former parish members (Attachment C).

On May 15, Fr. Coleman responded to the criticism of his Thursday evening course, in which he offers justification for conducting the classes. (Appendix D). As this is an open Title IV matter, and in interest of transparency, I have included the redacted canonically required monthly report by Bishop Burgess (IV.6.10) dated April 11, 2025 (Appendix E).

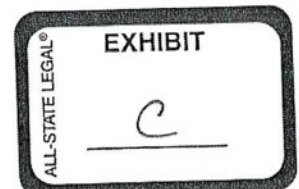
Thank you for your guidance and action on this matter. I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Lenore Killam, DPA

cc: The Reverend Fr. Dale Coleman

Mr. Kevin Babb, Esquire Chancellor





The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

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The Reverend Dale Coleman
2005 Woodriver Dr Apt C
Carbondale, IL 62901

VIA E-Mail: fatherdale@sbcglobal.net

May 27, 2026

Dear Father Coleman:

Please be advised that, effective immediately, I am placing you on Administrative Leave, pursuant to Title IV.7.3 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

As described in Title IV.2 of the Canons, "Administrative Leave" is a "restriction on ministry in which the exercise of [your] ministry is **suspended in its entirety** during the period of the Administrative Leave and may include suspension from any ecclesiastical and related secular office." (**emphasis added**) During this period of Administrative Leave, you may not engage in types of conduct listed in the numbered paragraphs below. This list is merely illustrative, not exhaustive, and does not limit or negate the comprehensive nature of the restrictions on the exercise of your ordained ministry "in its entirety", as set out in the Canons.

By way of example, during this period of Administrative Leave, you may not:

1. Hold yourself as holding Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church, or claim, represent, suggest, or imply, that you have such Orders;
2. Wear clerical garb or vestments, whether in the context of worship, in public settings, or otherwise;
3. Officiate at, or lead, divine services or other liturgies, in the Episcopal Church, or in any other denomination. As part of this restriction, you may not serve as a supply priest in any congregation, and your license to do so is hereby suspended during the time that this Administrative Leave is in effect.
4. Teach or lead any meetings concerning matters relating to the Church, including but not limited to, Bible studies, prayer meetings, or discussions of theological/ecclesiastical spiritual matters.
5. Provide pastoral counseling or assistance to any person.



6. Address any secular gatherings or meetings concerning ecclesiastical, spiritual, or theological matters, or provide written documentation to any written or online media (such as newspapers, or Internet websites).

I am placing you under Administrative Leave because I have received credible information that, on or about May 21, 2026, a complaint was filed against you in Williamson County, Illinois charging you with Driving Under the Influence. In addition, the Court records maintained by the Circuit Court in Williamson County indicate that a suit has been filed on your behalf to vacate a Summary Suspension of your driver's license, indicating that you may have engaged in disciplinable conduct which led to that Summary Suspension. These facts, if proven, may indicate violations of the following provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, and perhaps others:

1. Failing to abide by a Pastoral Direction, contrary to Canon IV.1.d;
2. Engaging in a criminal act that reflects adversely on [your] honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a minister of the Church; contrary to Canon IV.1.h.5; and
3. Engaging in conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy, contrary to Canon IV.1.h.9.

This period of Administrative Leave shall remain in effect for at least the duration of the pending secular court matters in which you are a party (including any periods of probation, incarceration, and administrative penalties and review). The period of Administrative Leave shall also continue for reasonable time thereafter sufficient to consider and to provide a specific, objectively measurable, plan to address issues of personal conduct involved in these circumstances, as well as the formulation of a plan to address possible issues relating to substance abuse and matters of behavioral health.

Under Canon IV.7.10, you have the right to request review of this pronouncement of Administrative Leave. A request for review must be in writing and addressed to the president of the Disciplinary Board and the Church Attorney, with a copy to the Bishop Diocesan.

+ 3-15-31

The Right Reverend Brian K. Burgess
Springfield XII

Cc: Mr. Kevin Babb, Esq., Chancellor
The Rev. Canon Mark Evans, Intake Officer
Mr. Bruce Bonds, Esq., Church Attorney
Dr. Stephen Chadwick, President of the Disciplinary Board
The Rev. Canon David Wells, Canon to the Ordinary
The Rev. Fr. Earl Mahan, Advisor



The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

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Ember Day
Being May 28, 2026

The Reverend Dale Coleman
2005 Woodriver Drive Apartment C
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Dale:

This letter serves as a Pastoral Direction from your Bishop pursuant to Canon IV.7.

As your Bishop, I have serious concern about your behavior with regard to:

- ❖ Your recovery from a life of alcoholism
- ❖ Your mental and spiritual well-being
- ❖ Your fitness for living under the demands of Ordained ministry

As we progress through Title IV and await the outcome of Criminal Court proceedings, we shall determine the ways we need to address these issues (and any others that may arise) and develop a plan for addressing these matters. I expect your full cooperation with me and with those whom I may ask to help us with these matters.

While this matter is being addressed and investigated by either the Church Attorney or the Disciplinary Board, you are not to discuss the matter with anyone except your professional counselor, attorney, Advisor, and investigators employed or assigned by the Diocese.

I will expect that all tenets of the *Restriction on Ministry* issued on May 27, 2026 be followed and lived out without interpretation or calculating any variances. If any questions arise, you will address those questions with me directly and immediately.

- ❖ You will pray the Daily Offices daily and you will make your regular Holy Communion before an altar of an Episcopal Church wherein you are allowed by previous Pastoral Directives to enter or a church with which we are in full-communion (Title I.20). A written log of days and hours will be maintained indicating when and where these expectations are being met and submitted to me monthly by the 15 of each month.
- ❖ When it is deemed appropriate to do so, you are to submit to a psychological examination at the direction of your Bishop or his designee.



- ❖ It is my Godly counsel to you that the first and most urgent matter is your recovery and the establishment of a new routine, and this counsel includes consideration of a number of proven programs for the support of sobriety. I expect your daily attendance at AA meetings. I retain the authority to decide if your living for a specified period within a sober house or half-way house, and therapy in the presence of a therapist with a concentration in addictions would be prudent at a time certain yet to come.
- ❖ During this time, please remember that you are still under the ordinary obligations of your priestly vows which includes attending to collegial invitations from your Bishop (such as the Annual Diocesan Synod, Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat and the Annual Chrism Mass and lunch).
- ❖ We shall be revising the provisions of this letter as I determine the best ways to address the concerns that are before us and as the plan develops. Before there can be any consideration of your return to the active vocational ministry, there will be further assessments that will be determined by me.

I can only imagine the considerable pressure that all this places on you. We shall give you all the time and support that we can, but there is work to be done that only you can accomplish.

You and I shall meet as soon as possible after September 1st, with Canon Wells to assess how you are doing with the initial work that is before you, and make decisions about next steps. It is at this meeting that you will provide evidence of having attended daily AA meetings.

You are in my prayer of intercession during the Morning Office. I encourage you to remain in regular contact with Canon David Wells, so that we are absolutely up-to-date with developments in your situation.

In the peace of God, which passeth all understanding;

+ B. K. B. 1

The Right Reverend Brian K. Burgess
XII Springfield

cc: Mr. Kevin Babb, Esq., Chancellor
Mr. Bruce Bonds, Esq., Church Attorney
Dr. Stephen Chadwick, President of the Disciplinary Board
The Reverend Canon Mark Evans, Intake Officer
The Reverend Canon David Wells, Canon to the Ordinary
The Reverend Fr. Earl Mahan, Advisor

From: Dale Coleman <fatherdale@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 11:30 AM

To: Erin Anglin <administrator@episcopalspringfield.org>; Bishop <bishop@episcopalspringfield.org>

Subject: Re: Letter to The Rev. Dale Coleman

Dear Erin,

Please respond to the Bishop that I received his letter, and I will be completely compliant.

The date for the DUI was February 20. I am contesting this for a number of reasons with legal counsel.

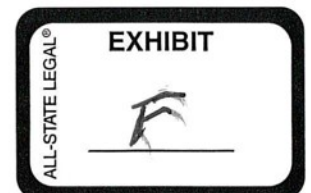
This would be my first time arrested with an otherwise completely clean record. The State Trooper did not retain my Illinois Driver's License. I am grateful to him for that privilege.

I will of course follow the Bishop's directive.

Faithfully in Christ,
The Rev. Canon Dale Coleman+

On Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 01:09:11 PM CDT, Erin (McCrory) Anglin <administrator@episcopalspringfield.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,



Bruce L. Bonds

From: David Wells <canon@episcopalspringfield.org>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2026 1:47 PM
To: Bruce L. Bonds; Kevin Babb
Subject: FW: Letter to The Rev. Dale Coleman
Attachments: Coleman_5272026.pdf

Gentlemen:

Bishop Burgess has requested I provide this email to you. It is Dale Coleman's "correspondence of the day" as he sent a similar letter yesterday about his arrest for DUI. It seems Dale is getting bolder in his correspondence and threatening manner. The Bishop is looking for a way to address this or does it all go into the issues in Coleman's file that are under review. Thank You, Canon David Wells+



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
SPRINGFIELD

The Reverend Canon David Wells

Canon to the Ordinary

821 S Second St, Springfield IL 62704

217-525-1876

episcopalspringfield.org

From: Dale Coleman <fatherdale@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Erin Anglin <administrator@episcopalspringfield.org>; David Wells <canon@episcopalspringfield.org>
Subject: Re: Letter to The Rev. Dale Coleman

Dear Bishop,

I wish to see your entire retraction of the two letters you sent, being extremely false and harsh, unnecessary and totally undeserved.

At any time you could have checked with me on all matters to receive facts of this "criminal" case.

They sickened me and weighed strongly on my spirit and soul as a completely faithful priest in Christ's Holy Church, and total devotion to the Holy Trinity, the Lord's Blessed Mother and all Saints. I do not see any sign from you that that is your view of your orders.

I am prepared today to send these and my response to the Presiding Bishop's office.

I expect a complete apology, communications to the folks you heard from in St. Stephen's and copies to all who received these.

I expect an email followed up with hard copy certified letter stating this. With no response from you today I am considering several possible remedies to make these documents available to news sources and various leaders in the Diocese, as well as continuing my action against you at 815 Second Avenue.

Shame on you.
Dale+



Bruce L. Bonds

From: Erin Anglin <administrator@episcopalspringfield.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 2:04 PM
To: Kevin Babb; Bruce L. Bonds
Subject: FW: Pastoral Direction to The Rev. Dale Coleman

Hi Bruce and Kevin,

Bishop Burgess asked me to send this email from Dale Coleman to you.

Thank you,

Erin (McCrary) Anglin



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
SPRINGFIELD

Erin Anglin

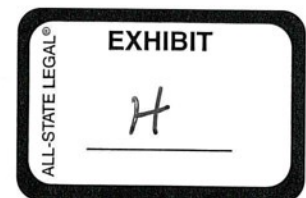
Executive Assistant to the Bishop

821 S Second St, Springfield IL 62704

217-525-1876

episcopalspringfield.org

From: Dale Coleman <fatherdale@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 1:34 PM
To: Erin Anglin <administrator@episcopalspringfield.org>
Subject: Re: Pastoral Direction to The Rev. Dale Coleman



Please let the bishop know some facts. When the case is dismissed, I will send a full report to answer his specious letters which are filled with falsehoods and horribly wrong. Even defamatory. I will address everyone he copied and my own attorney.

I will begin with this. Not one medical or psychological or therapeutic authority has ever declared me an alcoholic. Not ever! Even the Institute the Bishop sent me to. The bishop has been repeating this slanderous lie to many people who have told me this, and there it is in his trashy letters. He is the sole source of this ugly rumor.

1- a report has just reached me that my blood test and urine test came back showing no alcohol in my system. Zero. When the trooper confidently thought I did and told me this firmly, I could only think it would have been a prank by a couple guys at Chevies earlier. They denied it to me. That assumption was wrong. No alcohol.

2- The trooper was so unsure about his findings, with multiple errors made, including and egregiously acting as phlebotomist in an open public unsanitary Energy Police Station and sticking me three times to get less than half the blood necessary; as well as getting back on three of the four breathalyzers results next to nothing on the fourth, that he allowed me to keep my Driver's License. This is always taken from a suspect for this "criminal" charge.

3- After almost three months I had heard nothing. At all. I got an outstanding attorney, who told me no one had filed this

from the State Police with the Williamson County Court, nor with the Secretary of State. It was "buried". The entire procedure was so ridden with outrageous problems, that he wished to file a motion with the Secretary of State to rescind any removal of my Driver's License at any time. He said this would force the State Troopers to file the case with the Williamson Court and not allow them to skip out. He was thinking of a court action for remedy later. It was filed on May 20 or 21. That's when the bishop saw it, or heard about it and used all false ideas about this from his own omniscience.

4- The first hearing for the judge to agree with the motion to rescind any suspension of Driver's License was held on June 3, and sailed by the States Attorney and the Judge in fewer than two minutes. Next case with same Judge in July.

I hope being faced with facts and not the bishop's false hopes and dreams are read and understood. I hope he knows after testing I had NO ALCOHOL.

DC+

On Friday, May 29, 2026 at 12:30:15 PM CDT, Erin (McCrary) Anglin <administrator@episcopalspringfield.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter dated May 28, 2026 to The Rev. Dale Coleman

Thank you,
Erin Anglin
Executive Assistant to the Bishop

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