

REVEREND AMJAD SAMUEL

CHURCH ATTORNEY STATEMENT OF OFFENSES

THE CHARGES

The Reverend Amjad Samuel engaged in acts which constitute Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy in violation of Title IV, Canon IV.1(h)(9) of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

The Reverend Amjad Samuel engaged in acts constituting discharging, demoting or otherwise retaliating against persons because those persons opposed practices forbidden under Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church or because those persons reported information concerning an Offense under Title IV in violation of Title IV, Canon 3.1(e).

FACTS

The facts supporting the charges are summarized below.

Since Reverend Amjad Samuel's arrival at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Shelton, Connecticut ("St. Paul's" or the "Parish") in late 2014, three Parish Administrators, the Director of Christian Education, the Choir Director and a recent organist left their employment at St. Paul's. At least two of the Parish Administrators, the Director of Christian Education and the Choir Director left St. Paul's because of the hostile and intimidating environment created and fostered by Rev. Samuel.

Rev. Samuel is either unable or unwilling to tolerate dissent. Parishioners, employees and vestry members and/or officers who disagree with Rev. Samuel are regularly ostracized by him . In late 2017 and early 2018 five women who were either paid or volunteer staff at St. Paul's or vestry members and/or officers at the Parish complained to the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (the "Diocese") about Rev. Samuel's behavior toward them and others. Rev. Samuel made it clear to them and others in the Parish that the individuals who complained to the Diocese about

his behavior were no longer welcome to worship at St. Paul's; that Parishioners should not speak to them and, if approached by one of them, Rev. Samuel needed to be notified immediately.

Rev. Samuel consistently behaves in a manner that divides the Parish. He has created an environment at St. Paul's that is divisive. He retaliated directly and indirectly through others against those who complained to the Diocese about his behavior. Those parishioners who disagree with him are unwanted and criticized and either leave the Parish or are forced out. Rev. Samuel's pastoral care appears to extend only to those who do not challenge him.

Donald J. Allison, Church Attorney
Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut