

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
BEFORE THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURT

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE, INC.

OFFENSES:
Canon IV.1.1(j)

Presenter,

v.

THE REVEREND MARTHA ENGLERT

Respondent.

PRESENTMENT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee ("Diocese") having received communications from several former or present members of the parish of Grace Church in Madison, Wisconsin, accusing Respondent of acts which, if true, would constitute an Offense, and the Bishop having referred the matter to the Standing Committee, acting as Diocesan Review Committee for the Diocese ("Standing Committee"), for further action pursuant to Canon IV.3.5, and the Standing Committee, proceeding pursuant to Canon IV.3.5 as if a Charge had been filed, and the Standing Committee having determined that an Offense may have occurred if the facts alleged in the Charge be true and thus referring the matter to the Church Attorney pursuant to Canon IV.3.11, and the Standing Committee having communicated said Charge to the Respondent pursuant to Canon IV.3.9, and the Church Attorney having investigated the matter and having submitted a confidential report to the Standing Committee pursuant to Canon IV.3.12 and 3.13, and the Standing Committee having considered the report of the Church Attorney at

meetings duly called and noticed, and the Standing Committee, pursuant to Canon IV.3.14(c), having determined, at a meeting on April 25, 2006, by a majority vote of its entire membership that the information before it, if proven at trial, provides reasonable cause to believe that (i) an Offense has been committed, and (ii) the Respondent committed the Offense:

NOW THEREFORE, the Standing Committee of the Diocese issues this PRESENTMENT.

The Standing Committee charges that:

1. Respondent, the Reverend Martha Englert, is a priest canonically resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Inc. and the Rector of Grace Church (Madison, WI).
2. At numerous times throughout 2005, the Respondent made inappropriate disclosures to or about Grace Church parishioners (present and former) and to or about Grace Church staff members (present and former) concerning personal, private, sensitive, sexual, medical, confidential, or pastoral information about parishioner, staff, or Grace Church matters.
3. At numerous times throughout 2005, the Respondent made inappropriate remarks: about giving communion to frustrating parishioners; wanting to harm the Grace Church congregation; speaking profanely; speaking about people in sexual terms; in the presence of children; misleading parishioners with false information; discussing the incompetence of parishioners and staff members; revealing unauthorized actions she had engaged in; and naming parishioners who had left or should leave Grace Church.
4. The individuals to or about whom the inappropriate disclosures and remarks were made were parishioners (present and former), staff members of Grace Church (present and former), and family members of present and former parishioners.

5. At the time of Respondent's actions, Respondent, as the Rector of Grace Church, was in a position of authority and responsibility, and with duties as a member of the Clergy, that preclude the disclosures or remarks.

6. The disclosures and remarks of the Respondent were harmful to Grace Church, parishioners (former and present), their family members, and affected staff members (former and present).

COUNT I

Canon IV1.1(j) Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy (Pattern of Inappropriate Disclosures)

7. Paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Presentment are repeated and realleged, as if set forth fully herein.

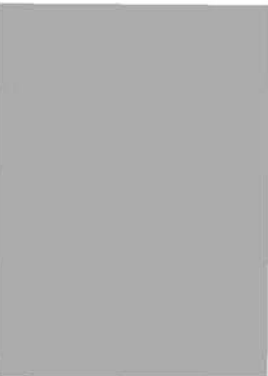
8. The inappropriate disclosures Respondent made form a pattern of behavior and the pattern of inappropriate disclosures is what the Presentment addresses.

9. Examples of inappropriate disclosures by the Respondent include without limitation:

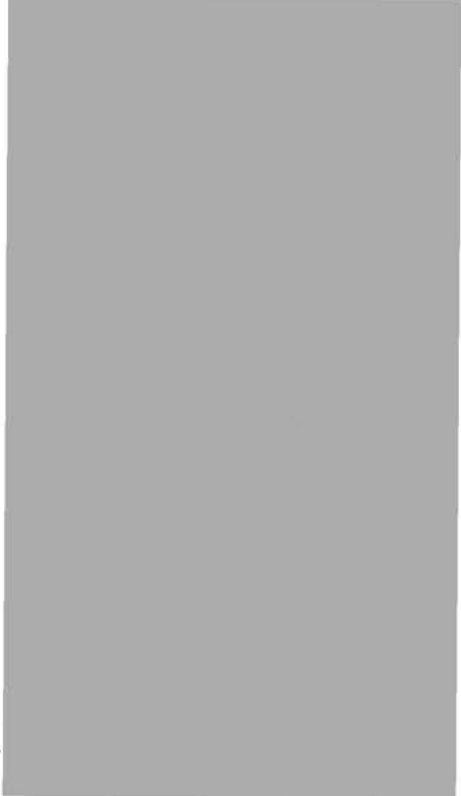
- A. [REDACTED] mental stability, family problems, the circumstance of her father's death by suicide, her response to her father's death by suicide, the state of her marriage, her parenting abilities, and her work in the Christian Education program.
- B. The incompetence of named Grace Church employees.
- C. The incompetence of named Grace Church volunteers.
- D. Grace Church personnel matters.
- E. The sex lives of named parishioners.
- F. Marital issues of named parishioners.
- G. Personal issues of named parishioners.
- H. Medical issues of named parishioners.
- I. Family issues of named parishioners.
- J. The parenting abilities of named parishioners.
- K. Financial issues of named parishioners.
- L. Adequacy of a parishioner's pledge.
- M. Reading an e-mail regarding [REDACTED] pastoral counseling.
- N. Naming parishioners who were forced out of Grace Church.
- O. Naming parishioners of Grace Church who should leave the parish.

- P. False, misleading and inaccurate disclosures to or about parishioners.
- Q. Saying she gave a child communion over known parental objections.

10. People to whom the Respondent made inappropriate disclosures include without limitation:

- A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
 - G.
 - H.
 - I.
 - J.
 - K.
- 

11. People to whom the inappropriate disclosures relate include without limitation:

- A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
 - G.
 - H.
 - I.
 - J.
 - K.
 - L.
 - M.
 - N.
 - O.
 - P.
 - Q.
 - R.
 - S.
 - T.
 - U.
 - V.
 - W.
 - X.
- 

12. Respondent's actions, as set forth above, are in violation of Canon IV1.1(j) because they constitute disorder and neglect prejudicing the reputation, good order and discipline of the Church, and constitute conduct which brings material discredit upon the Church and the Holy Orders conferred by the Church.

COUNT II

Canon IV1.1(j) Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy
(Pattern of Inappropriate Remarks)

13. Paragraphs 1 through 12 of this Presentment are repeated and realleged, as if set forth fully herein.

14. The inappropriate disclosures in Count I form a pattern of inappropriate remarks for a member of the Clergy to make.

15. Additional inappropriate remarks were made by Respondent which also constitute a pattern of inappropriate remarks for a member of the Clergy to make.

16. Examples of the additional inappropriate remarks the Respondent made include without limitation:

- A. Referring to communion as hemlock for named parishioners.
- B. In frustration saying Grace Church congregation members should be shot or poisoned.
- C. Angry and emotional outbursts with parishioners.
- D. Naming parishioners she wanted out of Grace Church.
- E. Using profane language, including in front of children.
- F. Making false and misleading statements to certain parishioners.
- G. Discussing her personal sex life.
- H. Using sexual language regarding Grace Church staff.
- I. Discussing unauthorized activities in which she had engaged.
- J. Telling sexual jokes in the Sacristy.

17. People to whom the Respondent made the additional inappropriate remarks include without limitation:

- A.
- B.



- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.
- H.
- I.
- J.
- K.
- L.

18. People about whom the additional inappropriate remarks were made include:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.
- H.
- I.

19. Respondent's actions, as set forth above, are in violation of Canon IV1.1(j)


because they constitute disorder and neglect prejudicing the reputation, good order and discipline of the Church, and constitute conduct which brings material discredit upon the Church and the Holy Orders conferred by the Church.

DATED this 4 day of April, 2006.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

By: Mitzi M. Roy
Mitzi Roy
President

MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP

By: 

Thomas W. Scrivner
Church Attorney
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 271-6560

April 29, 2006

To: The Rev. Martha Ann Englert

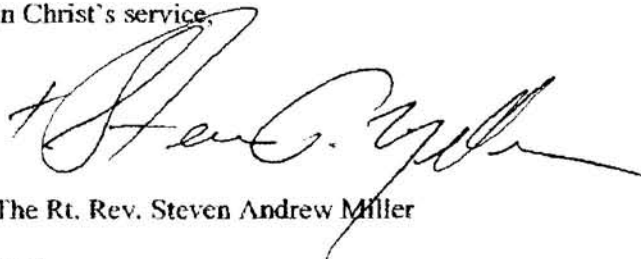
INHIBITION

A Presentment dated April 29, 2006 has been made against the Rev. Martha Ann Englert by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Milwaukee acting in its capacity as Diocesan Review Committee. Pursuant to Title IV, Canon 1, Section 3 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, I hereby inhibit the Rev. Martha Englert from exercising the gifts of ordination in the ordained ministry as follows:

1. She shall not appear in public as a priest of this Church.
2. She shall not perform any priestly ministrations.
3. She shall not publicly preach.
4. She shall not communicate with the parishioners or staff of Grace Episcopal Church, Madison (the "Parish"), provided that she may communicate with the Wardens and staff of the Parish to the extent reasonably necessary to comply with this Inhibition.
5. She shall return all property of the Parish now in her possession, she shall remove her personal property from the Parish property, and she shall surrender to the Wardens of the Parish all keys to Parish facilities.
6. She shall not discuss this matter with any person other than her Bishop and persons acting on behalf of the office of the Bishop, her spiritual director, her legal counsel, her Consultant appointed under Title IV, and any mental health professional from whom she seeks counseling.

This Inhibition will remain in effect for until after the Judgment of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court becomes final. This Inhibition is effective immediately.

In Christ's service,



The Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller

Bishop

Certificate of Service of the Presentment

In the matter of

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal
Diocese of Milwaukee ("Standing Committee")

Petitioner,

v.

The Reverend Martha Englert

Respondent.

This is to certify that I, Lynda E. Gibson, on behalf of the Standing Committee, acting in accordance with Title IV, Canon 3, Sec 17 and Title IV, Canon 14, Sec 17(b) of The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church did, on May 1, 2006, serve true copies of the Presentment against the Rev. Martha Englert to the following persons:

The President of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court
The Rev. Thomas Winslow
Certified Mail and Regular Mail
N12 W29810 Southhampton Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

The Church Attorney
Thomas W. Scrivner, Esq.
Hand Delivered
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Ave, Ste. 300
Milwaukee, WI 53202

The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of
Milwaukee
The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller
Certified Mail
804 E. Juneau Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

The Respondent
The Rev. Martha Englert
Certified Mail
Regular Mail
13 Carillon Drive
Madison, WI 53705

Attorney for the Respondent
Michael Rehill, Esq.
Certified Mail
Regular Mail
Facsimile
E-Mail
P.O. Box 714
Westwood, NJ 07675

Courtesy copies were delivered by first class mail to the following who have been acting as Advocates and pastoral support for the Victim.

The Rev. Gary Lambert
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
4011 Major Avenue
Monona, WI 53716-1133

Signed: Lynda Gibson
Lynda Gibson for the Standing Committee

5/1/06
Date

Authorized: Mitzi Roy
Mitzi Roy, President of the Standing Committee

4/29/06
Date

Certificate of Service of Inhibition

This is to certify that I, Lynda E. Gibson, did, on May 1, 2006, serve a true copy of the Inhibition of the Reverend Martha Englert to the following persons:

The Respondent
The Rev. Martha Englert
Certified Mail
Regular Mail

13 Carillon Drive
Madison, WI 53705

Attorney for the Respondent
Michael Rehill, Esq.
Certified Mail
Regular Mail
Facsimile
E-Mail
P.O. Box 714
Westwood, NJ 07675

Signed: _____

Lynda Gibson

Date