



*From the home of Bishop Larry Leo Shaw
This is not an official instrument or correspondence of the Board of Bishops*

To The Honorable Members of the College of Bishops COGIC:

I pen this communiqué to you my fellow-Bishops with a great sense of duty and respect for this great institution and organization. The Board of Bishops is the greatest Board in the Church of God In Christ. Out of this Board comes the **General Board**; out of the General Board comes the **Presiding Bishop, Chief Apostle and leader of the Church of God In Christ**. What a distinct honor it is to serve on this Board, The Board of Bishops.

The Word of the Lord says in 2 Samuel 23:3, **“He that ruleth over men must be just.”**

It is painfully clear that the Chairman of the Board of Bishops has placed himself in direct conflict with the rule of law, order and process as he continues to drag this Board into unnecessary infighting, insignificant scrimmages, political squabbling and a constant power grab by the overly ambitious. He has unilaterally issued verdicts and decisions which continue to bring National embarrassment to this honorable body...furthermore; to many of us it seems that he has allowed himself to be sidetracked by persons who do not wish to protect the future of this great Board of Bishops. It seems that they have placed their personal agendas as their highest priority. Gentlemen, the integrity of this Board is at stake. The future of this great Board is greater than individual or personal self-serving agendas of grandeur.

Recently, the Chairman of the Board of Bishops has taken a defiant attitude against justice and fair play in that he has chosen to continue to operate in contempt of the court’s order by leading the Executive Board, yet again, into **another fight** with the Judiciary Board. This Chairman acts in a defiant indifference to the rule of law as he **continues to circumvent the will of the Board that elected him**. He has moved to aggressively side-step the court’s order and has violated Bishop Holsey’s Constitutional right by denying him protection under the double jeopardy laws (a constitutional right based on the Fifth Amendment). The Chairman of the Board of Bishops and his Executive Board wishes to administer additional

punishment after Bishop Holsey has completed the punishment phase of his sentence. This improper action is done after the fact, precisely six (6) months and two (2) weeks later. **WHY??**

The Chairman convened a meeting with the Executive Board and Bishop Enoch Perry III on May 31, 2013 for the purpose of discussing additional severe punishment on Bishop Thomas L. Holsey. The Judiciary Board had already ruled in favor of Bishop Thomas Holsey since his probation ended on November 15, 2012. Bishop Holsey was given an official release to continue serving his jurisdiction. The Board of Bishops at large was satisfied that Bishop Holsey had completed the two year penalty phase that was imposed upon him by his peers at a Board of Bishops' Trial conducted November 6-10, 2010 in St. Louis, MO.

Because of pressure, this Chairman conducted a hastily-called meeting at the International Women's Convention held in Orlando; (without inviting Bishop Holsey or his counsel and without an official hearing), to exact additional punishment on an already embattled Bishop whom he is sworn to protect through due process provided by both the COGIC and U.S. Constitutions. This continues to be a pattern in this administration.

The Chairman has had a long history of a running feud with the leadership of the Board of Bishops, the Supreme Court of the Church of God In Christ and the existing rules and regulations of the Board of Bishops that governs his office. The **Chairman cannot** be autonomous. **He cannot** operate without respecting the constituency of this organization. The Chairman of the Board of Bishops has an obligation to protect the members of this Board.

At this meeting, Bishop Thomas Holsey was hit with another destructive sanction after successfully serving his time on probation. The stiff sentence rendered by this Executive Board:

Bishop Thomas L. Holsey is reduced to Auxiliary Bishop without charge.

Bishop Thomas L. Holsey proudly served his mentor and father-in-law, the honorable prelate and senior statesman, Bishop L.T. Blackshear, for 40 years. Bishop Holsey was groomed by Bishop Blackshear, during these years, for the leadership of this great Jurisdiction. His ascension to the lofty office of the Bishopric and his elevation to the pastorate of the headquarter church – Bible Way Temple COGIC – is a testament to his loyalty, faithfulness, and commitment to the people of Delaware. He was consecrated and installed to the office of Jurisdictional Bishop of Delaware in November 2009 by Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle, the Honorable Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr., the General Board, and the National General Assembly at the Annual Holy Convocation in St. Louis, Mo.

Just as this present chairman, Bishop John H. Sheard, saw this ship going off course under the Honorable leadership of former Chairman - Bishop L. J. Walker -, he went to Chairman Walker two years before the Board of Bishops election and informed him of his intentions to unseat him, this honorable Board must also serve notice to this Chairman, that it is now **time for a drastic and immediate change of course.**

After the Executive Board reviewed and discussed the case of Bishop Thomas L. Holsey, they rendered a final judgment on whether he will remain Jurisdictional Bishop or not. This was done AFTER Bishop Holsey had served his two years sentence of probation.

Bishop Holsey will possibly be demoted at the next official meeting. How sad.

Bishop John Young (Fl) - *Yesterday*

Bishop Thomas L. Holsey (Del) - *Today*

Who Doth the Bell Tolls - *Tomorrow*

Me??!! You??!!

Enough is Enough!

Brothers, it is time to alter our present course and our dismal state of affairs, lest we hit bottom as we speedily head off course at break-neck speed. How can we correct our course? I submit to you.....change the present by altering the way we continue to do business.

The law of Navigation says, "Anyone can steer a ship, but it takes a true leader to chart the path." It is apparent that we're off course and in view of the mandate of the last election; a change in the leadership is the only thing that can correct our course.

How long must the college of Bishops remain silent while the walls of justice and fairness become the by-words of yesterday?!

I WON'T BE SILENT ANYMORE!!!

*In the Pursuit of Righteousness,
Bishop Larry L. Shaw, PhD.
Your Brother in Christ*

Exhibit A

Sequence of Events

The failure of due process for Bishop J.D. Young (FL)

- **February 12th 2009** - The Chairman of the Board of Bishops – **Bishop John H. Sheard sentences Bishop J.D. Young** without the benefit of a trial or due process according to the COGIC Constitution. The chairman signed this order on his personal letterhead without the Secretary of the Board of Bishops.
- **May 2008** - The Chairman made a deal with Supervisor Stallworth that Bishop J.D. Young would pay her \$6,000.00 and restore her to her former position as Jurisdictional Supervisor of women for the Florida Northwest Jurisdiction in spite of Bishop Young's decision not to rehire her. The Board of Bishops supplemented \$2,000.00 for her silence on this matter, without obtaining a release from her, in hopes that she would go away.
- **January 2009** – Against the advice of the Executive Board, Executive committee, and the Secretary to the Board of Bishops, the Chairman signed an unauthorized suspension on Bishop J.D. Young. This improper action was hastily done on Bishop John H. Sheard's jurisdictional stationery with the assistance of his personal secretary and the legal counsel, Judge Enoch Perry. He refused to allow the Board of Bishops secretary's input because he felt as the Chairman of the Board of Bishops; he had a right to suspend Bishop Young without due process because "we are an autonomous body".
- **June 4th 2009** - This unprecedented action ultimately led to Bishop J.D. Young's resignation from the Northwest Jurisdiction of Florida.
- **September 2009** - After the fallout of this debacle The Chairman directs the Executive Board to formulate a statement to be read to the Board of Bishops that **maybe** the Executive Board may have made some mistakes in sentencing Bishop J.D. Young without a trial. The secretary read this document in the Board of Bishops' official meeting.

Exhibit B

Sequence of Events

The failure of protection provided by the U.S. Constitution (double jeopardy) and COGIC Constitution for Bishop Thomas L. Holsey (Del)

The Failure of leadership to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Board of Bishops in protecting fellow- Bishops.

- **November 2009** – Bishop Thomas L. Holsey consecrated to Bishop of Delaware
- **June 2010** – Presiding Bishop arrived in Delaware to officially put Bishop Holsey on notice because of a complaint by a Pastor. He was accompanied by Judge Perry and Bishop Frank White.
- **July 2010** – The General Board appoints an EOC commission over Delaware. Bishop Brooks is appointed over Delaware and authorized by the General Board. Bishop Holsey was again removed from his position as Jurisdictional Bishop.
- **August 2010** – Bishop Holsey is restricted from addressing his Jurisdictional convocation. Bishop Brooks is in charge of financial matters of the Jurisdiction and all offerings of the convocation in Delaware.
- **November 2010** – The trial of Bishop Holsey by the BOB in St. Louis, MO. as a result of charges leveled against him by the General Board.
- **December 18, 2010** – 3rd Saturday Jurisdictional Meeting, Delaware
- Bible Way Temple Church, Dover, Delaware
- Bishop Frank White - representing the General Board
- Bishop Ernest Morris - representing the Board of Bishops
- Members of the Delaware Jurisdiction present
- Purpose of the meeting - To explain the outcome of the Trial of Bishop Holsey
- Bishop White reads the order of probation given to Bishop Holsey
- Bishop White states that Bishop Holsey is still the Bishop of the Delaware Jurisdiction with financial restrictions. He also states that he is to oversee the jurisdiction and Bishops duties during the period of probation and that Bishop Morris was present to report to the Board of the Bishops

- Bishop Morris had words in support of the Jurisdiction uniting together and moving forward
- **January 29th 2011 – Jurisdictional Assembly**
- Bishop White addressed the Jurisdiction and relates by order of the Presiding Bishop and the General Board that Bishop Holsey is again removed as Jurisdictional leader of Delaware and Bishop White is the Bishop of Delaware. This order was signed by the Chairman of Board of Bishops, Bishop John H. Sheard.
- **January 30th 2011 – 11:30 am During Sunday morning worship service**
- Bible Way Temple Church, Dover, Delaware
- Bishop Frank White - representing the General Board
- Purpose - to enforce an order from the Board of Bishops
- Bishop White stated to the LOCAL congregation of Bible Way that Bishop Holsey was **suspended from the position of Jurisdictional Bishop and pastor of Bible Way Church and New Holy Trinity Church until further notice**. Bishop White read the order on behalf of the Board of Bishops and stated it was **signed by Chairman John Sheard**, Chairman of the Board of Bishops, COGIC.
- Bishop Holsey was removed from his pulpit during Sunday morning worship as 350 congregates were gathered for service. They were surprised to hear the General Board member say that **Bishop Holsey is removed from pastorate of Bible Way Temple COGIC**. What a sad day for families?! The General Board member had several signed documents that authorized him to remove Bishop Holsey from his pulpit. These documents were signed and authorized by the Chairman of the Board of Bishops – John H. Sheard on January 27, 2011. (The Chairman did not get authorization from the Board of Bishops to remove Bishop Holsey from his Jurisdiction or from the pastorate of his two churches). The congregation was confused about this highly improper move. He also had in his possession, two documents signed by the Presiding Bishop of the COGIC – Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr. authorizing the General Board member to take over Bishop Holsey Jurisdiction and Pastorate.
 - *A memorandum of understanding signed by Bishop Blake
 - *The official letter to the leaders of the Delaware Jurisdiction
 These two documents along with the order to remove Bishop Holsey signed by Chairman Sheard were all dated January 27th, 2011.
- **April 2011** - The National Judiciary Board overruled rescinded and made null and void, the Order signed 27 January 2011 by the Chairman of the Board of Bishops that improperly removed Bishop Holsey from his Jurisdiction and his Pastorate. Bishop Thomas L. Holsey was reinstated as the Bishop of Delaware and restored to Pastor of his two churches. The Saints rejoiced greatly!!

- The Saturday after the April Call meeting at the Bible Way Temple Church, Dover, Delaware
- Bishop Frank White - representing the General Board
- Purpose - to explain the outcome of the order of suspension as reviewed by the National Judiciary Board
- Before meeting with the jurisdiction as a whole, Bishop White called all pastors together to meet privately (active supporting pastors and fraction of pastors not supporting)
- Bishop White stated that the outcome of the hearing by the Judiciary board was to return to the first order of probation to finish its 2 year course. He stated that Bishop Holsey was the Bishop of the Delaware Jurisdiction and Pastor of Bible Way and New Holy Trinity churches.
- Bishop White addressed the faction of pastors not supporting the jurisdiction and urged them to abide by the order and return to the jurisdiction to work with Bishop Holsey. After expressing his urge to support him then told them that they had every right to protest and remain a faction.
- Bishop White met with the members of the jurisdiction and stated the Bishop Holsey is the Bishop of the Delaware Jurisdiction and Pastor of Bible Way and New Holy Trinity and would serve the remainder of the probationary period.
- After the meeting Bishop White met with a trustee board formed by Bishop P.A. Brooks operating with the faction of pastors. They were in possession of property of the jurisdiction (money and office furniture). We do not know that outcome or resolution of this meeting other than they have not surrendered any money or property belonging to the Delaware Jurisdiction.
- Bishop White has also attended church meeting with the faction of pastors and has accepted their national quota reports not made with Bishop Holsey. Members not supporting the Delaware Jurisdiction that reside in Delaware to this date have credentials and attend the National General Assembly.
- **Between January and April 2011**, as the interim Pastor of Bible Way Temple COGIC, Bishop White sent preachers to minister on Sundays, while Bishop Holsey could only stand by and watch.
- **November 15th 2012 – Bishop Thomas L. Holsey officially completed his two year sentence of the probationary period imposed by the Board of Bishops after his trial. (November 15th 2010)**
- **Judiciary Order #106-11 dated April 2013 - rendered by the National Judiciary Board was given to the Chairman of the Board of Bishops. This Judicial order ruled in Bishop Holsey favor that allowed him to continue to serve his Jurisdiction as Jurisdictional Prelate without restrictions. This Executive Order was read aloud by Judge Enoch Perry III to the specially called meeting of the Executive Board of the BOB.**

- **Friday May 31st 2013 – Chairman of the Board of Bishops convened a special Executive Board meeting at the Women’s International Convention in Orlando, Fl. The purpose of this meeting was to bring Bishop Enoch Perry III together with the Executive Board to discuss further punishment of Bishop Thomas L. Holsey after his probationary period was over.**

The sentence imposed by this special called meeting of the Executive Board was the following:
Bishop Thomas L. Holsey is demoted from Jurisdictional Bishop to Auxiliary Bishop without charge. He will retain his pastorate of Bible Way Temple COGIC.

Bishops let us pray for Bishop Holsey’s lovely family, the Jurisdiction of Delaware and the Leadership of the Board of Bishops Church of God in Christ.

*In Pursuit of Righteousness,
Bishop Larry L. Shaw, PhD
Your Brother in Christ*