



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

03 July 2024

STATEMENT RE THE REVEREND DUBE AND FAMILY

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa works hard to ensure that it acts with grace and always finds ways to meld justice with mercy. We strive to find a middle ground and we too are saddened when despite all our best efforts, we are not able to, leaving no choice but to make decisions which pain us.

The situation in respect of Reverend Dube is one such instance, and it is with sadness that certain events have made it necessary for us to issue the following statement, lest our silence causes one soul to fall into doubt or to lose faith.

With regard to Revd. Dube, the following brief summary of facts need to be made known :

1. The Revd. Dube had undergone a disciplinary process in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, because of allegations arising from the parish, where he was the incumbent.
2. A tribunal was constituted in accordance with the Canonsⁱ of ACSA and he was found guilty and a sanction of deposition and revocation of licence to minister imposed.
3. Revd. Dube appealed to the metropolitan, Archbishop, Thabo Makgoba and the sanction and guilty finding of the disciplinary tribunal was set aside on 20 August 2017, the finding was based on a procedural irregularity. No finding was made in respect of the substantive nature of the complaints.
4. In seeking to bring him back into the fold, various engagements ensued with Revd. Dube over a period of 3 years, from 2017 until 2020, all whilst he remained a licensed cleric receiving a stipend and living in the rectory at St Peters, not serving the Diocese.
5. Revd. Dube was and always had been of the view, that he should be placed back at St Peters. This was not possible for pastoral reasons, and it was best that he be placed at a different parish. The parish council had previously also passed a resolution calling for Revd. Dube to be placed at a different parish.
6. As he continued to be part of ordained stipendiary ministry, various discussions were held with him, explaining that he could not return to St Peters and that he was needed at other parishes. He continued to receive a stipend while unreasonably refusing to accept another parish.
7. In June 2018, he was nominated as rector for the parish of St Ninians. This offer was refused.
8. From July 2018 – December 2018, the Dean engaged with Revd. Dube in respect of being placed at a different parish. This yielded no results.

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9. From April 2019, until March 2020, Revd. Dube was given an opportunity to respond to the offers made and further given an opportunity to be heard before Canon 25ⁱⁱ was invoked.
10. During the period mentioned above, 3 Parishes were offered: St Katharine's, Uitenhage, St Simon of Cyrene and St Ninians, yet he refused all. When Canon 25 commenced, he was duly informed and given an opportunity to be heard, but refused to accept that he should be placed at a different parish. The Canonical process was completed on 19 March 2020, and on 30 June 2020, he no longer held the licence to minister within the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.
11. In addition, Revd. Dube had been offered alternative options within the wider church which he has also refused.
12. Revd. Dube and his family have been occupying the rectory of St Peters since his incumbency in 2012.
13. Despite not being a licenced cleric in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, he has for the last 4 years on a rent- and cost-free basis, lived in the St Peter's rectory. The burden of which has been borne by the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. This meant that other works of mission and witness could not be carried out. The rectory was not available to St Peters at all during this period.
14. Revd. Dube was informed that the church could not continue this basis, and he was asked to seek alternative accommodation. Again, he failed to do so, and he also refused to vacate the rectory when he was requested to do so.
15. The Diocese of Port Elizabeth then had no choice but to apply to court for an eviction order, which was granted on 11 July 2023. The order stipulated that he had to vacate by 31 July 2023. Despite this, the Diocese of Port Elizabeth continued to try to assist with finding alternatives and when all steps had been exhausted, a year later only executed the eviction order.

At all times the Diocese of Port Elizabeth was at pains to assist Revd. Dube to find alternatives and this final step is for the church and its members a painful outcome.

I remain yours in the service of Christ,



Lay Canon Rosalie Manning:

Chair of Safe and Inclusive Church

ⁱ Canons are the laws of the church which are recognized and accepted by secular courts provided that the rules are followed and standards of fairness and justice maintained. All ministers of the church make oaths to be bound by the Canons.

ⁱⁱ Canon 25 makes provision for the process to be followed when a cleric is moved. It also provides what happens in the event that a cleric refuses to move- including period of notice and the right to be heard.