

THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
of The Presbytery of Geneva  
of The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

DECISION

Presbytery of Geneva  
for  
the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Case Number D.10-1

Rev. Zane Bollinger

This is a disciplinary case which has come before the Permanent Judicial Commission as a result of accusations against Rev. Zane Bollinger, a Minister of Word and Sacrament and a member of The Presbytery of Geneva.

The Permanent Judicial Commission finds that it has jurisdiction, that the charges against Rev. Zane Bollinger were filed with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Geneva within the required time limits.

WHEREAS, the Rev. Ruth Huizenga Everhart having filed a complaint of sexual abuse pursuant to D-10.0401c of the Book of Order against Rev. Zane Bollinger,

WHEREAS, the Investigation Committee with representatives of The Presbytery of Geneva and The Presbytery of Genesee Valley having been duly appointed and having conducted an investigation into the complaint; and

WHEREAS, the Investigation Committee having found probably cause for the Complaint, The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. charges The Rev. Zane Bollinger, a minister of Word and Sacrament and a member of the Presbytery of Geneva, with the following offense:

In the spring of 1992, at the office of Rev. Ruth Huizenga Everhart at Penfield Presbyterian Church, 1881 Jackson Rd., Penfield, NY, 14536, Rev. Bollinger did commit the offense of sexual abuse by forcibly kissing his then-colleague Rev. Ruth Huizenga Everhart, on the lips. This action is contrary to the Book of Order, D-10.0401

At the time, Rev. Bollinger functioned in the office and roles of a minister at Penfield Presbyterian Church, as validated and authorized by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, in order that he would be entrusted with, and function in, the office and roles to which he was called while a minister in good standing of the presbytery. He was also both in a professional fiduciary relationship with Rev. Everhart as well as a ministerial relationship.

In the context of these relationships, the actions of Rev. Bollinger, by breaking down set boundaries of professional fiduciary and ministerial relationships, were not only sexual abuse, but abuse of power. As an outcome of those actions, in specific the unsolicited kiss, Rev. Everhart experienced harm, injury, and/or damage in one or more of the following domains: physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, familial, financial, and occupational. The manifestation of such occurred not only during commission of the misconduct itself, but over time following commission.

WHEREAS, the Accused having submitted his guilty plea; and

WHEREAS, the Accuser having accepted this resolution of her Complaint

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED that the Complaint of Ruth Huizenga Everhart against the Rev. Zane Bollinger is resolved by the Guilty Plea and the Agreement of Alternative Resolution dated April 9, 2010.

THIS PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION, ACTING AS A COURT OF THE CHURCH, THEREFORE IMPOSES THE CENSURE OF REBUKE

Whereas you, Rev. Zane Bollinger, a minister of Word and Sacrament and member of the Presbytery of Geneva, have been found guilty of the offense of sexual abuse, and by such offense you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now, therefore, the Presbytery of Geneva, in the name and authority of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., expresses its condemnation of this offense, and rebukes you. You are enjoined to be more watchful and avoid such offense in the future. We urge you to use diligently the means of grace to the end that you may be more obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### ABSENCES AND NON-PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Nancy Birdsong, a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, was not present and took no part in the proceedings.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2011



Moderator, Permanent Judicial Commission



Clerk, Permanent Judicial Commission