

Official Use Only
Date Received:

Rev. 11/2025

C 2026-058



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
ETHICS ACT COMPLAINT FORM

Section 1. READ BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM:

Investigative Authority: The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (the Act) gives the State Ethics Commission (Commission) the authority to investigate complaints against candidates, public officials, public members, public employees, at the state or local government level in South Carolina as well as lobbyists, and lobbyist's principals.

The Commission has the authority to investigate violations of Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 2, Chapter 17 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 150 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, various provisions of Title 42, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and various provisions of Title 58, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws

Statute of Limitations: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(d) of the Act, the Commission cannot take action on a complaint more than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred.

Blackout Period: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(b)(1) of the Act, no complaint may be accepted against a candidate for elective office during the fifty-day period before an election in which he is a candidate.

Please note that the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, violations of the criminal code, instances of rude or discourteous treatment, federal officials, or violations of local ordinances, policies, or procedures.

Section 2. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT:

Complaints must be submitted by mailing the original of a fully completed complaint form to the Commission at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210. Failing to completely fill out the complaint form will result in the form being returned to you without an investigation being opened. Complaint forms must be either typed or written in clear, legible handwriting.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choosing. If either the complainant and/or the respondent chooses to be represented by legal counsel, they do so at their own expense.

Section 3. CONFIDENTIALITY:

Complaint forms become public documents if the Commission finds probable cause that a violation of law has occurred. Please note that upon receiving a properly filed complaint form, the Commission will share an unredacted copy of the complaint with the Respondent whether or not an investigation is ordered.

Section 4. COMPLAINT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Please check each circle to acknowledge that you have read and understand the following:

- ✓ I understand that I may be called to testify in an administrative or criminal proceeding should probable cause be found on this matter.
- ✓ I understand that I may be subpoenaed to sit for a deposition where I will be required to answer questions under oath.
- ✓ I understand that my name, address, and phone number will be shared with the Respondent.
- ✓ I understand that my name may be made public by the Respondent or the Commission.

Section 5. CHECK THE POSITION OF THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THIS COMPLAINT IS FILED:

- ☐ Candidate for public office
- ☒ Elected official at the state or local level
- ☐ Employee of local or state government
- ☐ Lobbyist
- ☐ Lobbyist's Principal
- ☐ Member of South Carolina Legislature
- ☐ Public member (a person appointed to a part-time board, commission, or council at the state or local level)

Section 6. COMPLAINANT AND RESPONDENT INFORMATION:

I. PERSON BRINGING THE COMPLAINT (COMPLAINANT)			
Name:	David C. Shea		
Address:	[REDACTED]		
City:	Columbia	State:	SC Zip Code: 29201
Telephone	[REDACTED]	Email Address:	[REDACTED]
II. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT (RESPONDENT)			
Name:	Aaron Bishop		
Address:	[REDACTED]		
City:	Columbia	State:	SC Zip Code: 29210
Telephone	[REDACTED]		

Section 7. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS COMPLAINT COMES FROM:

- ☐ Personal knowledge
- ☐ Media Reports
- ☐ From a third-party
- ☒ Other
- ☐ Please specify: Public records

Section 8: STATEMENT OF FACTS (Please state the actions of the Respondent upon which your ethics complaint is based):

1. Aaron Bishop has failed to file his 2026 Statement of Economic Interests.

This appears to be intentional as he has filed SEIs since 2010 and rarely been late. Further, he timely filed his Quarter 1, 2026 Report on April 1, which indicates he continues to have access to and uses the electronic filing system.

2. Aaron Bishop amended his 2023 report on December 19, 2023, to disclose that he had income from Grace Academy CDC and Grace Christian Church in 2022, both of which he had failed to list on his original disclosure (and prior disclosures) but has reported annually since.

This raises a question of intentional failure to report income, as he had not reported income from either entity prior to the Amendment in December 2023.

On November 14, 2023, Mr. Bishop filed a lawsuit (2023-CP-40-006070) against his siblings concerning Grace Christian Church which revealed that he indeed was receiving income from Grace Christian Church in 2022. See first page of Complaint and exhibits he attached to his Complaint as Exhibit A for corroboration.

Based upon his own allegations in his lawsuit, Mr. Bishop filed his original 2023 SEI on March 2, 2023, but by the end of that same month he knew he was receiving a compensated sabbatical. It cannot be determined from the public record if he being compensated before that date by Grace Christian Church, but if he received a paid sabbatical, it reasons to stand he was also being compensated prior to the sabbatical and failed to report that income.

Thus, it appears he knowingly failed to amend his SEI filed on March 2, 2023. He corrected it only when a public record was created by his own filing of a lawsuit that he had income from Grace Christian Church. Also, if he indeed had income from that entity prior to March 2, it appears he knowingly filed a false SEI on March 2.

Mr. Bishop may again run for this nonpartisan office in 2026, and voters should be able to review current and correct SEIs. Further, should it be determined his actions were negligent or intentional, he should be appropriately sanctioned to deter those who are required to file SEIs from engaging in similar conduct.

Section 9. VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION - ORIGINAL NOTARY AND SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

Personally appeared before me David C. Shea who, first being duly sworn, says that he has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
2 day of June, 2026

[Redacted Signature]

Notary Public for South Carolina

[Redacted Signature]
Complainant Signature

My Commission expires 09/05/2035



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF RICHLAND

Dr. Aaron Bishop, Dr. Jennifer Bishop,
Greater Columbia Community Development
Corporation, and Grace Christian Church

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Angela Bishop Hammonds, Robin McRae, and
Roderick Bishop,

Defendants.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

C.A. No.

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
(NON-JURY)**

Plaintiffs, Dr. Aaron Bishop ("Pastor Bishop"), Dr. Jennifer Bishop ("Co-Pastor Bishop"), Greater Columbia Community Development Corporation, Inc. (the "Corporation") and Grace Christian Church (the "Church") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs") complaining of Defendants Angela Bishop Hammonds ("Defendant Hammonds"), Robin McRae ("Defendant McRae"), and Roderick Bishop ("Defendant Roderick"), and (hereinafter collectively referred "Defendants") alleges as follows:

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. Pastor Bishop and Co-Pastor Bishop are residents of Richland County, State of South Carolina.
2. Grace Christian Ministries, Inc. d/b/a the Corporation, is a nonprofit corporation organized and incorporated in the State of South Carolina.
3. The Church is a religious place of worship located in Richland County, State of South Carolina, and controlled by the Corporation.



EXHIBIT B

(Sabbatical Request Letter)



March 25, 2022

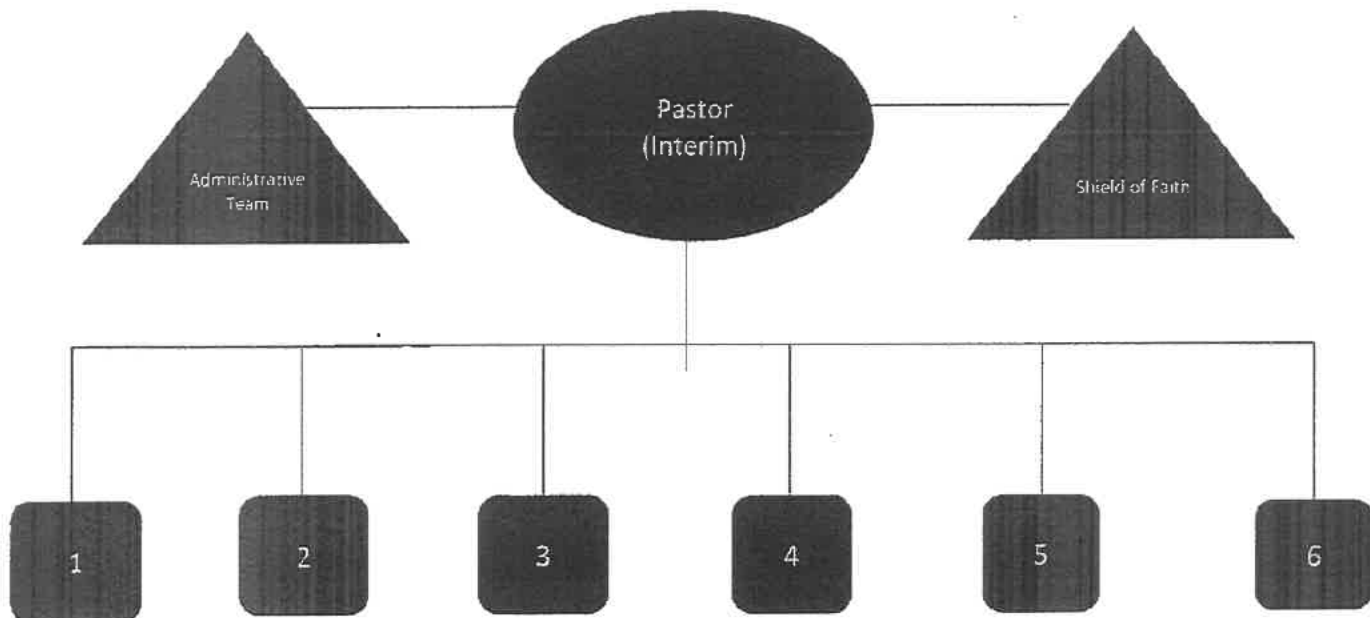
Grace Christian Church Family,

For nearly 15 years, one of the most fulfilling assignments in my life has been as the Pastor of Grace Christian Church. I genuinely believe it is my life purpose and calling to lead the people of God. Regrettably, I have entered a season where my mental health, physical fitness, and spiritual growth need restoration. Therefore, I am immediately requesting a compensated six-month sabbatical for that restoration and renewal. The official sabbatical date begins on Sunday, March 27, 2022, concluding Saturday, October 1, 2022.

As this period begins, the Church body needs to select an Interim Leader to operate for the next six months. Leadership should accomplish this progression through a vetting and voting process. Before starting the sabbatical, I will assist in transitioning to a Committee and Administrative Team. My recommendation of committee members to organize this process are:

- Elder Roderick Bishop (Chair)
- Elder Joseph Morris (Vice-Chair)
- Kenyatta Simpson (Secretary)
- Dwan Young
- Gene Sessions
- Mother Debra Wallace
- Rev. Henry Hannagan

During this time, the Interim Leader will meet with the Church's Administrative Team to lead the operations of the Church. The Administrative Team is aware of several dates and events that should be managed and executed over the next six months. There should be no significant operational changes or administrative dismissals during this time. The Interim Leader and Administrative Team are responsible for new hires and appointments. The organizational chart below should remain in place until my return.



1. **Operations:** Finance Committee, Building Management, and Supplies are presently managed by Elder Angela Bishop Hammonds.
2. **Worship & Arts:** Audiovisual Team, online worship experience, social media, musicians, and voices are presently managed by Liz Oliver.
3. **Spiritual Development:** Sunday School/Wednesday Night, Prayer Team, New Members are presently managed by Rev. Errica Bishop.
4. **Hospitality & Service:** Ushers, Gate Keepers, Security, Care Groups are presently managed by Dwan Young.
5. **Auxiliary Ministries:** Mother's Board, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Children and Youth Ministries, Clergy and Deacons (Communion). **I am proposing that Elder Joseph and Rev. Viola Morris manage this. This leadership will aid with the responsibility of ministries that need leadership.**
6. **TBD:** This can be a department developed for growth and advancement.

All teams, divisions, and departments should identify a leader in the interim. This will help with who reports to who. Upon my return, I will meet with all leaders to set expectations for the congregation. All roles and responsibilities should be defined by the leader of each team, division, or department. If a person is needed to assist the Interim Pastor during these six months, that person can be placed underneath the Pastor in the organization chart to help meet with the six departments. There should not be any reconfiguration of the organizational chart.

I sincerely pray that this church body continues to grow while addressing the organizational challenges that will allow me to continue to lead this church body. I will not deal with the day-to-day or week-to-week management of the church. I am, however, willing to meet with the identified Interim Pastor upon the completion of the vetting and voting process. That identified person can meet with me on a needed basis. Until that time, I am only communicating with Elder

Roderick Bishop as the Chairman of that process. Upon selecting the Interim Pastor, I will make that appointee my point of contact.

Until,


Dr. Aaron R. E. Bishop
Pastor

EXHIBIT D

(Sabbatical Extension Letter)

Greetings Rev. Dr. Aaron Bishop,

It is our hope that this correspondence finds you well. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some changes as it relates to your status as Senior Pastor of Grace Christian Church.

On March 23, 2022, Grace Christian Church received a letter requesting a sabbatical. The sabbatical letter indicated that the sabbatical was set to end on October 1, 2022, and as of October 30, 2022, a return plan has not been communicated. A decision has been made by the clergy, administrative teams and church members to extend your sabbatical with a return date of 01/01/24. This allotted time period will allow for spiritual, physical, and mental restoration for you.

The terms of the Sabbatical extension are as follows:

- Refrain from conducting any spiritual, financial, business, or legal matters for Grace Christian Church.
 - This includes:
 - i. Conducting bible study, prayer meetings, business meetings or any ordinances connected to GCC.
 - ii. Acting in a pastoral or leadership position associated with GCC.
 - iii. Receiving or requesting logistical or financial information concerning GCC.
- Provide GCC with any information necessary within 72 business hours of the request.
 - This includes:
 - i. Passwords
 - ii. Security codes
 - iii. Contacts
 - iv. Log on information

Lastly, your original sabbatical request included a request for compensation from GCC. No compensation will be provided during this extended sabbatical.

All terms and conditions listed in this correspondent are effective upon receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Grace Christian Church Administrative Team, Grace Christian Church Clergy Team and Church Members

This document was written, signed and submitted with the support of the elders and leadership team of Grace Christian Church.

THURSDAY
[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

This document was written, signed and submitted with the support of the elders and leadership team of Grace Christian Church.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)

Complaint C2026-058)

David C. Shea,)
Complainant.)

NOTICE OF HEARING

Aaron Bishop,)
Respondent.)

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaint. The Commission will convene a formal hearing into the matter in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, February 18, 2027, at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

COUNT ONE

**FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A)(10) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Aaron Bishop, Richland County School District 1 Commissioner, failed to report sources of private income on his 2022 and 2025 Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A)(10).

COUNT TWO

**FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Aaron Bishop, Richland County School District 1 Commissioner, failed to file a

Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2026, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 17th day,
of September 2026

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Aaron Bishop, 954 Custer Street, Columbia, SC 29210 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 11 day of September 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.


Maquita S. Kessler, Paralegal
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192