

To Ken B., Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic:

And now, this 27th day of May, A.D. 2020 comes Jason R. and appeals from the decision of the New Hope Presbyterian Church on the enclosed complaint of Jason R. against actions of the New Hope Presbyterian Church, in order to bring that complaint to the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic for adjudication.

While this complaint might not have been written well – the complainant was extremely busy with work during this time due to the Covid-19 pandemic and struggled to get the complaint written in the required timetable, as well as the complainant has no prior experience writing a complaint - the hope is that despite whatever deficiencies in the writing of the complaint might be present, the underlying issues of the complaint would be ruled upon. In particular, the question of what is the nature of Administrative Discipline; is it any informal actions taken, as the session of New Hope has stated. Related to this, whether Administrative Discipline can be used as an informal version of judicial discipline, in ways that have the same purpose of judicial discipline, and in ways that give the appearance of judicial discipline, without the protections of the judicial discipline process. In addition, it is requested that the issue of what can be complained against would be looked at, as underlying the response to the complaint from the New Hope session was the view that anything where a motion was not made is not something that a complaint can be made against. This would imply that members from a session could determine to not include a session member in any communications, not inform them of meetings, and essentially de facto remove them from office, but as long as a motion was not made to this effect, there would be no appeal by complaint available. The hope is that the issues raised in the complaint would be addressed, despite any deficiencies in how the complaint is written.

Jason R., Appellant

Date: May, 27, 2020