

## **Heather Cook Case Timeline of Events – Search Process to Present**

**Updated: 2/10/15**

### **2013**

- **October:** Initial screening of potential nominees.
- **November–December:** Search Committee interviews potential nominees. Background checks for each semi-finalist completed by Oxford Documents investigator.
- **December:** Search Consultant informs denominational officer in charge of bishop searches and Search Committee co-chairs about Cook’s 2010 DUI revealed in background check questionnaire. Bishop Sutton informed of Cook’s DUI. Search Committee co-chairs interview Cook about 2010 DUI.

### **2014**

- **January:** Final slate presented to Standing Committee for approval. Standing Committee informed that one candidate (unidentified) has a DUI. Standing Committee discusses and presents final slate. Bishop Sutton has requisite bishop-to-bishop conversation with Bishop “Bud” Shand, Diocese of Easton. Bishop Shand recommends Cook without concerns or reservations.
- **February:** Cook encouraged by Bishop Sutton and president of the Standing Committee to publicly discuss her 2010 DUI at “Meet and Greet” events.
- **March:** Final slate of nominees announced. Search Committee’s work is complete and Transition Committee becomes responsible for process going forward, including conveying further public information about nominees.
- **April:** Public “Meet and Greet” events with nominees. Cook alludes to a difficult time in her life, but does not explicitly mention 2010 DUI.
- **May:** Cook elected bishop suffragan.
- **Summer:** Cook completes required psychiatric exam administered through the Presiding Bishop’s office. Details confidential to only the Presiding Bishop’s office.
- **September:** Bishop Sutton suspects that Cook might be inebriated during a private dinner held two days before the consecration, and conveys concern to Presiding Bishop before rehearsal the next morning (one day before the consecration). Presiding Bishop indicates she will discuss with Cook. Cook consecrated a bishop.
- **October:** Bishop Clay Matthews from the Office of Pastoral Development for the Episcopal Church, meets with Cook. Details confidential to only the Presiding Bishop’s office.
- **December:** Cook collides with Thomas Palermo and leaves the scene for approximately 30 minutes. Palermo dies. Cook retains legal counsel. Cook placed immediately on administrative leave. Police forensic investigation begins. Cook enters treatment at Father Martin’s Ashley.

## 2015

- **January:** Title IV Disciplinary Process begun by the Episcopal Church and Office of the Presiding Bishop. State's Attorney's Office of Baltimore City charges Cook with negligent manslaughter, criminal manslaughter, negligent vehicular homicide while under the influence (i.e., breathalyzer reading of .22) and negligent vehicular homicide while impaired (i.e., "texting"). Bail set at \$2.5M. Cook reports to Baltimore City Detention Center. Bail posted for Cook. Cook returns to re-start 28-day treatment program at Father Martin's Ashley. Standing Committee asks Cook to resign. Cook indicated on 13 charges in the death of Thomas Palermo.
- **February:** Presiding Bishop issues formal canonical Restriction on Ordained Ministry directed to Cook.