

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina; The Trustees of The Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina, a South Carolina Corporate Body; All Saints Protestant Episcopal Church, Inc.; Christ St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Christ the King, Waccamaw; Church of The Cross, Inc. and Church of the Cross Declaration of Trust; Church of The Holy Comforter; Church of the Redeemer: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church; Saint Luke's Church, Hilton Head; St. Matthews Church; St. Andrews Church-Mt. Pleasant Land Trust; St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church; St. David's Church; St. James' Church, James Island, S.C.; St. John's Episcopal Church of Florence, S.C.; St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Inc.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Bennettsville, Inc.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Conway; The Church of St. Luke and St. Paul, Radcliffeboro; The Church of Our Saviour of the Diocese of South Carolina; The Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal); The Church of the Good Shepherd, Charleston, SC; The Church of The Holy Cross; The Church of The Resurrection, Surfside; The Protestant Episcopal Church of The Parish of Saint Philip, in Charleston, in the State of South Carolina; The Protestant Episcopal Church, The Parish of Saint Michael, in Charleston, in the State of South Carolina and St. Michael's Church Declaration of Trust; The Vestry and Church Wardens of St Jude's Church of Walterboro; The Vestry and Church Wardens of The Episcopal Church of The Parish of Prince George Winyah; The Vestry and Church Wardens of The Church of The Parish of St. Helena and The Parish Church of St. Helena Trust; The Vestry and Church Wardens of The Parish of St. Matthew; The Vestry and Wardens of St. Paul's Church, Summerville; Trinity Church of Myrtle Beach; Trinity Episcopal Church; Trinity Episcopal Church, Pinopolis; Vestry and Church Wardens of the Episcopal Church of The Parish of Christ Church; Vestry and Church

Wardens of The Episcopal Church of the Parish of St. John's, Charleston County; The Vestries and Churchwardens of The Parish of St. Andrews, Respondents.

v.

The Episcopal Church (a/k/a The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America); The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, Appellants.

Appellate Case No. 2015-000626

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ORDER

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The Episcopal Church in South Carolina (TECSC) requests this appeal be certified to this Court pursuant to Rule 204(b), SCACR. TECSC also states it "would like to explore whether the other parties and the Court would be willing to relax certain rules in an effort to avoid unnecessary expense." Noting there are over three dozen respondents and many lawyers involved in the case, TECSC suggests that rather than serving all parties with bound copies of the briefs and record, the parties be allowed to provide the materials to one another in electronic format.<sup>1</sup> TECSC also proposes the use of an abbreviated caption in the filings before this Court.<sup>2</sup> TECSC indicates The Episcopal Church consents to the motion.

Respondents also consent to certification of the appeal, as well as the use of appropriate and reasonable procedures for electronic service of briefs, records and other appellate documents.

Respondents have filed a motion to expedite. TECSC has filed a return in

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<sup>1</sup> According to the final order, the transcript is 2,523 pages in length and includes the testimony of 59 witnesses and the admission into evidence of 1,200 exhibits.

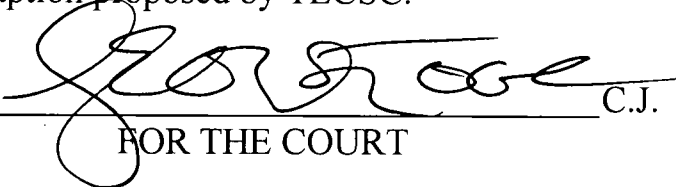
<sup>2</sup> The caption TECSC proposes is as follows: The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina et. al., Respondents, v. The Episcopal Church (a/k/a The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America) and The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, Appellants.

opposition to the motion to expedite and The Episcopal Church consents to the return.

The motion to certify is granted; however, we deny the motion to expedite. Oral argument in this matter will be held on September 23, 2015. No extensions of time will be granted.

The request that the parties be allowed to provide copies of the briefs, record on appeal and other materials to one another in electronic format is granted. Moreover, we reduce the number of hard copies of the final briefs and record on appeal that must be filed with this Court to ten. However, we remind the parties that it is the duty of appellate attorneys to pare the lower court record in a manner that will aid and assist the appellate court in rendering an educated decision on the issues before it. It is imperative that the record be culled in such a way to allow this Court to make a decision in an efficient and timely manner without having to wade through volumes of unnecessary materials. We therefore direct counsel for the parties, as officers of this Court, to scour the record they propose to present to this Court with a practical eye and consider which materials therein are critical to a decision by this Court in its capacity as an appellate court. Only those materials shall be submitted to this Court in the record on appeal. We expect counsel for the parties to fully cooperate with one another in this endeavor.

Finally, the request to use an abbreviated caption in the materials filed with this Court is granted and we approve the caption proposed by TECSC.

  
C.J.  
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

April 15, 2015

cc:

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