

March 24, 2015

#### VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse Clerk of Court Supreme Court of South Carolina Post Office Box 11330 Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina, et al.

v. The Episcopal Church and The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

Case No. 2013-CP-18-00013

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

This case is currently pending at the South Carolina Court of Appeals. I filed the notice of appeal today.

I have enclosed for filing the original and seven (7) copies of a motion requesting that the Supreme Court certify the case for review. The Court briefly certified a previous appeal in this case and I think it is possible the Court may wish to certify the case again. I have enclosed a proof of service upon counsel of record and the Court of Appeals and a check in the amount of \$25.00 for filing the motion. Please return the additional filed copy to me via our courier.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Blake A. Hewitt

Enclosures carbon copy listing on following page

### The Honorable Jenny Kitchings

cc:

Thomas S. Tisdale, Esquire Jason S. Smith, Esquire Andrew Spencer Platte, Esquire C. Alan Runyan, Esquire Henrietta U. Golding, Esquire Charles H. Williams, Esquire C. Pierce Campbell, Esquire Ivon Keith McCarty, Esquire Harry A. Oxner, Esquire Thornwell F. Sowell, Esquire Bess J. DuRant, Esquire Robert R. Horger Lawrence B. Orr, Esquire Harry Easterling, Jr., Esquire Mark Evans, Esquire Saunders M. Bridges, Jr., Esquire Stephen S. McKenzie, Esquire Robert S. Shelton, Esquire John Furman Wall, III William A. Bryan, Esquire Francis M. Mack, Esquire P. Brandt Shelbourne, Esquire E. Hope Lumpkin, Esquire

Susan MacDonald, Esquire Jim Lehman, Esquire Allan P. Sloan, III, Esquire Joseph C. Wilson, IV, Esquire Edward P. Guerard, Jr., Esquire David B. Marvel, Esquire David L. DeVane, Esquire David Cox, Esquire Henry Grimball, Esquire Thomas C. Davis, Esquire G. Mark Phillips, Esquire W. Foster Gaillard, Esquire Dane J. Sowinski, Esquire William A. Scott, Esquire John B. Williams, Esquire George D. Kefalos, Esquire Stephen Spitz, Esquire David Booth Beers, Esquire Mary E. Kostel, Esquire Allan R. Holmes, Sr., Esquire Timothy O. Lewis, Esquire Mark E. Feldmann, Esquire Paul G. Beers, Esquire

# THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA In the Supreme Court

## APPEAL FROM DORCHESTER COUNTY Court of Common Pleas

Diane S. Goodstein, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2013-CP-18-00013

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.

### **MOTION TO CERTIFY**

This motion is filed pursuant to Rules 204(b) and 240 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Rule 204(b) governs the permissive transfer of appeals to this Court from the Court of Appeals. Rule 240 governs motions and petitions generally.

This litigation concerns competing claims to ownership over various forms property associated with the episcopal church and with several episcopal parishes in this State. The case was tried to a judge and the judge has issued a final decision. This motion is being filed contemporaneously with the Notice of Appeal.

This Court briefly certified one of the previous appeals in this case. That was an interlocutory appeal of an order limiting discovery, which the Court denied.

With the Court's permission, counsel 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. There are over three dozen plaintiffs, all of whom are now respondents, and there are many lawyers in the case. Rather than serving all parties with bound copies of the briefs and the record, the parties could save significant expense by providing these materials to one another in electronic format. The Court followed a similar procedure in the <u>Abbeville</u> litigation.

This motion also proposes an abbreviated caption for the case's filings.

This motion is filed by The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, which was a defendant below and is an appellant here. The other appellant is The Episcopal Church. It consents to this motion.

March 24, 2015

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