

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

The Methodist Church of Simpsonville, Jackson Grove Methodist Church, Calhoun Falls Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Methodist Church, Trinity Methodist Church of Lancaster, Aldersgate Methodist Church, Boiling Springs Methodist Church, Fort Lawn Methodist Church, Panola Methodist Church, Dickson Methodist Church, Heidi Meek Medlin, and Michael Smith,  
Petitioners,

v.

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Leonard E. Fairley, Rev. Cathy Mitchell, Rev. Fran Elrod, Rev. Steve Brown, Rev. Terry Fleming, Rev. Telley Gadson, Rev. Anthony Hodge, Rev. Chris Lollis, Rev. Ken Nelson, Rev. Steve Patterson, Jr., and Rev. Jeffrey Salley, Respondents.


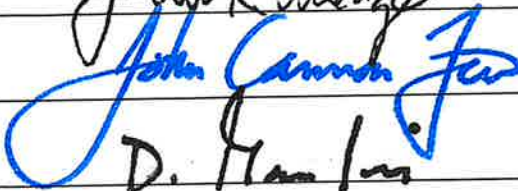


Appellate Case No. 2025-000712

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## ORDER

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Petitioners ask this Court to hear this declaratory judgment action in our original jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 245, SCACR. Respondents oppose the petition. The petition for original jurisdiction is denied. *See* Rule 245(a), SCACR (providing the Court will not entertain matters in its original jurisdiction when the matter can be determined in a lower court in the first instance without material prejudice to the rights of the parties unless the public interest is involved, or special grounds of emergency or other good reasons exist why the original jurisdiction of the Court should be exercised).

  
C.J.  
  
J.  
  
J.  
  
J.

James, J., not participating

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 13, 2025

cc:

James W Bannister  
Miles Edward Coleman  
James Y. Becker  
Costa M. Pleicones  
Ronald Talmadge Scott  
Sarah June Reisinger  
Kathleen Crum McKinney  
William A. Coates  
Vincent Clark Price  
Elizabeth Halligan Black  
David C. Gibbs, III