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JUL 29 2015

S.C. Supreme Court

July 29, 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 Diocese of South Carolina et al. v. The Episcopal Church  
Case Tracking No.: 2015-000626

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I reject the suggestion that the appellants are in any way at fault for the respondents designating *several hundred* items for the record that neither they nor I cite in any brief. They and they alone are responsible for what they designated. My position on the issues that are in question and the materials that are necessary can be easily ascertained by referencing my briefs and the materials I designated.

I had several reasons for not signing their proposed "stipulation." I disclosed some of these reasons in written correspondence with respondents' counsel, but I frankly do not believe that the stipulation or my reasons for not signing it are relevant because (as I wrote to the respondents on July 17th) the fact that nobody cites these materials demonstrates that they are clearly unnecessary and thus not relevant to the appeal.

I regret the inconvenience and distraction that has apparently been caused by my raising this issue. We considered filing a motion to strike the excessive materials, but because of the short deadline for perfecting this appeal, we calculated that the Court was unlikely to review any materials that were not cited in the briefs and that we could seek reimbursement for the cost of including irrelevant material in the record after the Court disposes of the appeal.

Yours sincerely,

*Blake Hewitt*

Blake A. Hewitt

*by emb w/ express permission*

cc: All counsel of record, by e-mail only.