

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) and The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, Appellants.

Appellate Case No. 2015-000622

ORDER

By order dated April 15, 2015, this Court certified this case for review; set oral argument for September 23, 2015; and allowed the parties to provide copies of the briefs, record on appeal, and other materials to one another in electronic format. We reminded 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 without having to wade through volumes of unnecessary materials. We directed counsel for the parties, as officers of this Court, to scour the proposed record with a practical eye and consider which materials therein were critical to a decision by this Court.

On July 28, 2015, the parties filed a record on appeal that was nearly 6,000 pages long and included twelve volumes of material. The same day, we were advised that there were numerous pages and exhibits included in the record on appeal that were "unnecessary." Specifically, counsel informed us that neither party cited to more than 3,000 pages in the record, or in other words, more than half of the record.

We certainly understand there will be times when materials, such as the pleadings, are furnished to the Court because the documents are central to the dispute, but the parties do not cite to them in their briefs. However, we explicitly directed the parties to scour the record and include only those materials that were critical to the Court's decision.

Accordingly, expecting counsel for the parties to fully cooperate with one another, we again direct the parties to reach an agreement on which pages and exhibits in the record on appeal are unnecessary and, therefore, should be removed. Our previous scheduling order dated July 22, 2015, is modified as follows:

- (1) The record on appeal shall be prepared and served on counsel for the respondents by **August 5, 2015**. This deadline can be met by e-mailing a copy to the counsel for the respondents using their e-mail addresses shown in the Attorney Information System (www.sccourts.org/attorneys/dspSearchAttorneys.cfm).
- (2) The record on appeal in the required number of copies shall be filed with this Court by **August 10, 2015**. These copies must be actually received by this Court by that date.
- (3) The final briefs of the parties shall be served and filed by **August 10, 2015**. The copies filed with this Court must be actually received by this Court by that date.



FOR THE COURT C.J.

Columbia, South Carolina

July 30, 2015

cc:

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