

REV. DAVID R. MELVILLE, ET AL. * DOCKET NUMBER: C-729777 SECT.: 23
VERSUS * 19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE * EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE *
OF THE UNITED METHODIST * STATE OF LOUISIANA
CHURCH, SOUTH CENTRAL
JURISDICTION

DECLINATORY AND DILATORY EXCEPTIONS

NOW INTO COURT through undersigned counsel, comes the defendant, Board of Trustees of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, South Central Jurisdiction, appearing solely for the purposes of these exceptions, and excepts to the plaintiffs' suit and petition on the following grounds:

1.

This suit and action is premature, in that plaintiffs have failed to exhaust their ecclesiastical remedies within and provided by the United Methodist Church before its highest judicial body, the Judicial Council.

2.

This honorable court lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of this suit and action, an ecclesiastical matter which concerns theological controversy, church discipline, ecclesiastical government and administration, under both the free exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and Article 1, Section 4 of the Louisiana Constitution.

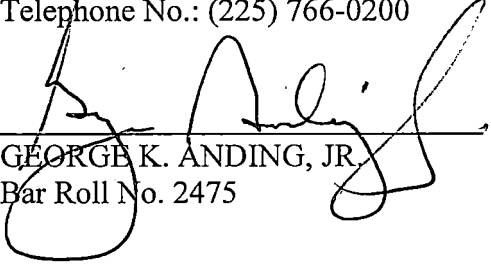
3.

The highest ecclesiastical judicial body with jurisdiction over this matter has already ruled against plaintiffs' claims and positions, and this honorable court is obligated to give deference to that court's opinions thereon.

Wherefore, exceptor prays that these exceptions be maintained, and that plaintiffs' suit be dismissed, at their costs.

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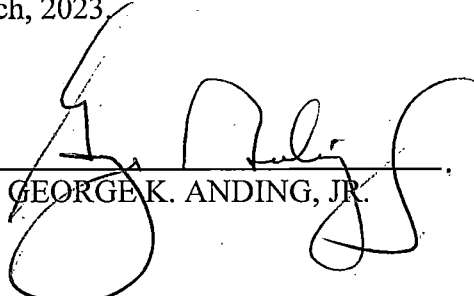
By:


GEORGE K. ANDING, JR.
Bar Roll No. 2475

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the above and foregoing has been mailed, postage prepaid
to: David M. Cohn, The Cohn Law Firm, 10754 Linkwood Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this 14th day of March, 2023.



GEORGE K. ANDING, JR.