

Departure from TEC

In 2007, Christ Church Anglican departed The Episcopal Church in order to defend and proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God. As a result, we were engaged in litigation regarding the ownership of the church's historic property for four and a half years. On May 3, 2012, Christ Church Anglican announced it had reached a settlement with the Episcopal Church. You will find the information below useful in learning more about the history of our stand.

BACKGROUND FACTS

In 1758, an act of the Royal Council granted Christ Church Anglican ownership of its church building and cemetery. After the Revolution the Georgia legislature granted a charter of incorporation to Christ Church Anglican.

Thus, since 1789, Christ Church Anglican was a legal entity, a corporation defined, bound, and protected by Georgia corporation law. The Act of 1789 also confirmed by legislative grant the corporation's legal title to all property then held by it or afterwards coming into its possession.

Christ Church Anglican maintained clear title to its property and never agreed to hold its property in trust for any other entity.

Christ Church Anglican predates The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Georgia and has never accepted any money from them.

WHAT HAPPENED: A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

On 9/30/07, the Christ Church vestry voted unanimously to disaffiliate from The Episcopal Church.

On 10/13/07, 87% of the members in good standing voted to uphold the vestry decision to disaffiliate and realign within the Anglican Communion.

On 11/14/07, The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia filed suit against Christ Church and personally against its rector and 13 individual members of the 2007 vestry.

Ultimately, the national Episcopal Church and persons who call themselves Christ Church Episcopal joined that suit. Despite repeated requests the plaintiffs have refused to dismiss the personal lawsuits against the rector and individuals.

We made an effort at the outset of the litigation to settle with the plaintiffs, but they refused to negotiate in good faith.

Following unfavorable rulings at the Chatham County Superior Court and the Court of Appeals, we petitioned the Georgia Supreme Court (GSC) to hear our case. Two Friend of the Court briefs were filed in our support.

On 11/21/11, the GSC ruled that all property of Christ Church Anglican is held in trust for the national Episcopal Church and its Georgia diocese.

In December 2011, the Christ Church Anglican congregation was forced to leave its buildings and now holds Sunday services at Independent Presbyterian Church.

Christ Church Anglican is one of over 104 congregations and 3 dioceses (groups of churches) nationwide that are being sued by TEC. The Episcopal Church is exploiting the judicial system in an attempt to coerce local congregations to embrace its deceptive theology.

On 3/22/12, Christ Church Anglican appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

On 5/3/12, Christ Church Anglican announced it had reached a settlement with The Episcopal Church.

WHY DID WE TAKE A STAND?

To stand firm for the Gospel because the leadership of The Episcopal Church and many mainline denominations openly deny the fundamentals of our faith. A few examples:

- The words of Jesus in John 14:6 stating that He is the only way to the Father “has nothing whatsoever to do with salvation.” (The Rev. James Shumard, a Savannah priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, letter to the editor, Savannah Morning News, 12/20/10)
- “There is a range of understanding as to whether Jesus is the only way to salvation...In our belief that God is generous... many of us suspect that in striving for intimacy with all human beings, God can achieve it through varying faith experiences and traditions.” (Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Episcopal Bishop of Ohio, as quoted in The Plain Dealer, Bay Village, Ohio, 1/6/12).

To protect the pulpit once used by John Wesley and George Whitefield from heresy.

To bring awareness to other churches of dangerous theological trends found in The Episcopal Church and many mainline denominations.

To alert Georgia churches with denominational ties that their property ownership might be in danger. To once and finally get clarity from the courts, so that other congregations will not find themselves litigated against in similar fashion.

Our publication A Conflict of Beliefs: Orthodox Anglicanism and The Episcopal Church, provides background and a point by point analysis of the issues surrounding our conflict with The Episcopal Church.

STAND WITH US - THE MOVIE

Christ Church Anglican is pleased to present a documentary titled “Stand With Us,” which was made in 2010. The 30-minute video documents the stand of Christ Church Anglican in defense of the historic Christian faith against anti-biblical, deceptive teachings found not only in the culture but also within many mainline denominations.