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Conference Separation Litigation Update (Nov. 13)

On Friday, as expected, Circuit Court Judge Brian M. Gibbons officially dismissed 70 of the cases brought by the South Carolina Conference and local United Methodist churches – cases involving those churches that have illegally sought to separate from The United Methodist Church. The judge had signaled last month his intent to do so.

The Conference and its legal counsel are continuing to review the judge's orders and intend to appeal these rulings, in accordance with South Carolina law. Our hope remains to bring these matters before the appellate courts, potentially including the South Carolina Supreme Court, at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

While this development is disappointing, we remain committed to faithfully stewarding the responsibilities entrusted to us – and we encourage South Carolina United Methodists to stay focused on our unchanging mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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