## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Commis Toulor
Clerk of Superior Court Cobb County

THE TRUSTEES OF THE NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.,	) CIVIL ACTION FILE ) NUMBER: 21-1-06801-28 )
Petitioner, vs.	) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
MT. BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC. d/b/a MT. BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,	) ) ) )
Respondent, Counterclaim and Third-Party Plaintiff,	) )
vs.	<u> </u>
THE TRUSTEES OF THE NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE, INC.; THE NORTH GEORGIA	) )
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.,	) )
SUE HAUPERT-JOHNSON, BISHOP; JESSICA E. TERRELL, DISTRICT	) ) FILED IN COURT
SUPERINTENDENT; JOHN DOE 1;	•
JOHN DOE 2; JOHN DOE 3; JOHN DOE 4; JOHN DOE 5;	THIS MOR 15 2020 AT
Counterclaim and Third-Party Defendants.	) CONNIE TAYLOR ) SUPERIOR COURT CLERK ) COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

## CONSENT ORDER REGARDING MOTIONS TO BE HEARD ON MARCH 15, 2022

The following motions are before the Court, having been scheduled to be heard for oral argument on March 15, 2022:

- 1. Mt. Bethel UMC's Motion for Joinder;
- 2. The North Georgia Conference of the UMC's ("NGC") First Motion to Strike;
- 3. Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson's First Motion to Strike;
- 4. District Superintendent Jessica E. Terrell's First Motion to Strike;

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5. Mt. Bethel UMC's Motion for Entry of Default Judgement; and

6. NGC, Bishop and District Superintendent's Second Motion to Strike.

With the Consent of the parties, resolving each of these motions, the Court hereby FINDS and ORDERS as follows:

The NGC, Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson, and District Superintendent Jessica E. Terrell (the "Third Party Defendants") have withdrawn their objection to Mt. Bethel UMC's Motion for Joinder. The Motion for Joinder is therefore GRANTED.

Mt. Bethel UMC has withdrawn Motion for Default Judgement against the Third-Party Defendants.

The Third-Party Defendants have withdrawn each of their First Motion[s] to Strike and their Second Motion to Strike.

FURTHERMORE, Third-Party Defendants and Defendants in Counterclaim shall have 30 days from the date of this Order to serve Answers to Mt. Bethel UMC's Third-Party Complaint and Counterclaim and to respond to Respondent Mt. Bethel's First Interrogatories and Requests for Admission to each. Discovery shall extend up to and through October 15, 2022.

The parties seek to maintain the status quo pending an effort to resolve this matter via mediation. Accordingly:

a. No action or vote will be taken at the June 2022 Annual Conference of the North Georgia Conference to "close" Mt. Bethel pursuant to \$\mathbb{Q}2549\$ of the UMC Book of Discipline; and

b. No clergy or lay delegate of Mt. Bethel at the June 2022 Annual Conference shall raise the issue of Mt. Bethel's closure or the declaration of exigent circumstances.

SO ORDERED, this /5 day of har 2022

The Honorable Mary Staley Clark Cobb County Superior Court

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