



On Monday, October 15, 2012, Bishop Mark J. Lawrence, the 14th Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina was notified by the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, that on September 18, 2012 the Disciplinary Board for Bishops had certified his abandonment of The Episcopal Church. This action by The Episcopal Church triggered two pre-existing corporate resolutions of the Diocese, which simultaneously disaffiliated the Diocese from The Episcopal Church and called a Special Convention. That Convention will be held at St. Philip's Church, Charleston, on Saturday, November 17, 2012.

Bishop Lawrence was notified of these actions taken by the Episcopal Church between two meetings, one held on October 3 and one to be held on October 22, which Bishop Andrew Waldo of the Upper Diocese of South Carolina and Bishop Lawrence had set up with the Presiding Bishop to find a peaceful alternative to the growing issues between The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of South Carolina. The meetings were to explore "creative solutions" for resolving these issues to avoid further turmoil in the Diocese and in The Episcopal Church. A timeline of these events and their associated documents may be found below.

Two of the three charges had previously been determined by a majority vote of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops in November 2011 not to constitute abandonment. The Diocese has not received a signed copy of the certification and also remains uninformed of the identity of those making these charges.

We feel a deep sense of sadness but a renewed sense of God's providence that The Episcopal Church has chosen to act against this Diocese and its Bishop during a good faith attempt resolve our differences peacefully. These actions make it clear The Episcopal Church no longer desires to be affiliated with the Diocese of South Carolina.

Documents from the Episcopal Church

[Certification of Abandonment](#)

[Exhibit A – Index of Quit-Claim Deeds](#)

[Exhibit B - Corporate Purpose Statements](#)

[Exhibit C – 219th Convention Documents](#)

[Exhibit D – 220th Convention Documents](#)

[Restriction of Ministry](#)

Documents from the Diocese of South Carolina

[Timeline of TEC Actions Against Bishop Lawrence](#)

[Attachment A - Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Diocese](#)

[Attachment B - Disciplinary Board Ruling - No Abandonment](#)

[Attachment C - Interpretation of Constitution and Canons](#)

[Attachment D - Motion Disaffiliating and Withdrawing from Episcopal Church](#)