

On December 2, 2009, St. Andrew's Church filed its response to the lawsuit brought by The Diocese of Tennessee and Bishop John C. Bauerschmidt. The church has challenged the material claims asserted by the plaintiffs, including their contention that St. Andrew's property is held in trust for the benefit of the national church (Episcopal Church of the United States). St. Andrew's also contested the incorrect inference that its property was "transferred" to it by The Diocese for nominal or no consideration. In a recent article heavily sourced to The Diocese and Bishop Bauerschmidt, the Tennessean newspaper incorrectly reported that St. Andrew's paid only \$10.00 for the property. An examination of the public records and information maintained by The Diocese establishes that the church paid a substantial amount for the real estate and associated personalty when it bought them from The Diocese in 1966.

A response to the lawsuit has also been filed on behalf of Father Guill and the Vestry members who have been sued individually. Their response seeks an immediate dismissal of the lawsuit on the basis that The Diocese and Bishop Bauerschmidt have sued them without proper basis and in direct violation of a Tennessee statute prohibiting lawsuits against officials of non-profit corporations. St. Andrew's has always been a non-profit religious corporation, and this status has been recognized both by the State of Tennessee and the U.S. government.

A photocopy of St. Andrew's response and the individual's petition are available for review on a separate tab. At this time, the church and the individuals who have been sued will have no further comment regarding the matter.