

**CHURCH FACES FEDERAL CASE *JOHNSON V. HUNT***

**Johnson v. Hunt et al Case# 14-CV-08986**

This case came as a result of two essential factors; Chairman James Hunt refusal to follow and obey the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ. In addition, Hunt continued his unconstitutional behavior by rejecting constitutional rulings of the National Judiciary Board . Moreover, Bishop Hunt flagrantly attacked the National Judiciary Board, our Supreme Court, by refusing to accept the Court’s authority, declaring that their rulings were null and void without proper constitutional authority. Hunt has placed himself above the constitution, the Judiciary Board and even the General Board. Johnson in his efforts to stop this destructive behavior of Hunt, sent several letters to the Presiding Bishop and General Board requesting their assistance in this matter to no avail. After several letters, waiting 185 days, and documents having been sent to the Presiding Bishop, with no action from the Executive Branch as is required by our constitution, led Johnson to file his complaint to include the Presiding Bishop and the top four leaders of the General Board. It is Johnson’s belief that the leadership of the General Board is at least guilty of dereliction of duty. In 2001 a resolution was passed giving the Presiding Bishop authority to suspend any officer for misconduct, violation of criminal law, violation of the constitution of the Church of God in Christ, malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance. However, the Presiding Bishop and the leadership of the General Board ignored all of this even to the point that they kept other members of the General Board in the dark regarding these serious violations of Hunt. Finally, Bishop Blake failed to inform the delegates that Hunt and the church was facing a Federal lawsuit during the November General Assembly.



**Bishop James W. Hunt**  
Chairman of the General Assembly

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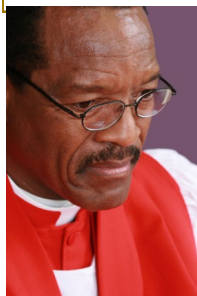
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**JANUARY 2015**

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**FEDERAL CASE INCLUDES GENERAL BOARD**



Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake



Johnson v. Hunt has widen his net to the church has requested and agreed include members of the General Board to settle this matter in Federal of the Church of God in Christ, Mediation, under the auspices of Incorporated. Johnson has included the Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland following; Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., in the Federal Court in Chicago. The Bishop P.A. Brooks, Bishop Jerry W. question remains is, how will the Macklin, Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush and negotiation go... most believe that Bishop Frank O. White. Save Our the discovery documents are key. Church has learned that the attorney for This is not over by a long shot.

## HAVE OUR CHURCH LOST ITS HOLINESS ROOTS?

**The Church has a Mission** to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ. The Church of God in Christ has always been known as a Pentecostal Holiness Church. It has come to believe that holiness is not a denomination but rather God's prescribed way of living. Holiness calls on all us to live our lives according to the Bible and not by political correctness. Sin is sin. But there are some sins that is so destructive, God calls them an abomination!

The basic idea of sanctification is that of separation or setting apart. In the Bible the words *sanctification* and *holiness* are interchangeable. At the time a person receives Christ, he begins to be sanctified (1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11), which means he has been separated from his past life of sin and is now dedicated to God. From Scripture we find that the Holy Spirit is the One who sanctifies (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Peter 1:2). Our lives in all aspects must portray holiness.



### WHAT WOULD BISHOP MASON DO?

Bishop Mason being a man of faith, prayer, and peace would have sought to resolve issues by calling on the Saints to pray and seek God for a solutions in the problems we are facing today. Bishop Mason was know for rebuking Satan, telling Satan to "come out of the mind" ! Our leader was know for seeking God, not seeking political solutions, behind doors deals, or making excuses for the weakness and proclivities of man. In 1951, he set up a "special commission" and selected Bishop A. B. McEwen, Bishop J. S. Bailey, and his closest cousin Bishop J. H. Norris as his assistants to help with the administration and oversight of the church. In 1952, he added Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr. to this commission. Bishop Mason believed in law and order and the Constitution of the Church. Shouldn't we enforce the Constitution on all today? Or are there persons above the constitution? **NO WAY!**

## HOMOSEXUALITY & THE CHURCH

Increasing political and religious advocacy for homosexual practices, same-sex marriage, and alternate sexual identities has prompted us at SOC to clarify our position on these critical issues. We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Since the Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that the Church correctly understands and articulates what it actually teaches on these matters which have now become so controversial and divisive. A reaffirmation of biblical teachings has become all the more urgent because writers sympathetic to the LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender)<sup>2</sup> communities have advanced revisionist interpretations of relevant biblical texts that are based upon biased exegesis and mistranslation. In effect, they seek to set aside almost two thousand years of Christian biblical interpretation and ethical teachings. We believe these efforts are reflective of the conditions described in 2 Timothy 4:3, "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. It should be noted at the outset that there is absolutely no affirmation of homosexual activity, same-sex marriage, or changes in sexual identity found anywhere in Scripture. Male and female genders are carefully defined and unconfused. The consistent ideal for sexual experience in the Bible is chastity for those outside a monogamous heterosexual marriage and fidelity for those inside such a marriage.

### THE COGIC CONSTITUTION, REAL OR IMAGINED

The Federal lawsuit in a Chicago courthouse (Johnson v. Hunt et al) is challenging the Church of God in Christ as to whether it really believes in and practice its own constitution. From what SOC has learned, the General Board seems to say that the constitution is not clear on a whole host of issues. So the questions are; when did the General Board first learn of these deficiencies in the constitution? More importantly, what have they done to correct these deficiencies? Simply saying that there are deficiencies and doing nothing is the height of the dereliction of duty!

The Church of God in Christ has spent many hours on correcting issues in the constitution; I am sure you remember the Constitutional Convention that convened in St. Louis, MO just a few years ago which was designed to correct all the gaps, deficiencies, and language problems existing in our constitutional document. On top of that was the Blue Ribbon Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Bishop J.H. Sheard, that went on for three or more years.

So to say we have gaps and deficiencies is an understatement given all that has been done to correct our constitution. However, violating what we have now is a travesty to good order and morale. We have a Supreme Court who is chartered with the legal authority to interpret our constitution as it is, and as such render direction going forward. If we reject our National Judiciary Board, we are rejecting our constitution and order in our church.

While our constitution may not be perfect as it is now, we still must obey it and the three branches of government along with their separation of powers. To do anything less is an affront to our leader Bishop Charles Harrison Mason and all that have gone before us. "How Long This Madness".

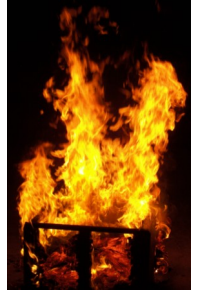
# Heard Around the Church..... "Bits & Pieces"

## Dollar\$ & Cent\$

Save Our Church (SOC) has learned that our church has a \$600,000 revenue shortfall, and as such must reduce expenditures 15% across the board. That means the General Assembly must give back their increase they received during the November session of the General Assembly. And taking this out further, means the General Board must reduce their \$1.3 million dollar budget as well. There is conversation about doing away with the National Trustee Board and transferring their duties to the General Board since the General Board is the corporate board of directors. This transfer would save the church approximately \$280,000 in Trustee Board honorariums and another \$60,000 in their travel expense. With the Trustee Board gone, that would save the Church an estimate of \$3.4 million over the next ten years. Or we could reduce the number of Trustee Board members to 12 and make them the Board of Directors. Finally, the constitution does refer to them as the Board of Directors as well as the Board of Trustees. Perhaps the General Board should handle ecclesiastical matters of the church and the Board of Trustees/Board of Directors should handle corporate and civil matters. So when they pass a budget, its passed and no more of this dual approval of the budget. I know **Bishop Dwight Walls** would love this.

## Burning Issues

It appears that the Dr. Earl Carter and Bishop Blake homosexuality saga has died down... but shouldn't we as a church discuss where we stand on the homosexual issue? Now we have heard that we're against "Same -Sex" marriage as an organization and I think that's fairly well established, but homosexuals in key positions is something yet to be handled. Our policy should be...if you're homosexual, you cant be in any position of leadership or authority. Now with that said, how do we ascertain who's gay or "Down-Low"? Perhaps their lifestyle may be an indicator...or we simply have to ask the question. We must tell our church and the world that homosexuality is an abominable sin and God provides complete deliverance! Further we must tell all that will come to the Church of God in Christ, there is a remedy for this nasty & abominable sin! We must tell them we love them, but they must seek forgiveness and deliverance. Would you want a child molester to come to the church and remain a Child Molester? Would you want a whoremonger to remain a whoremonger, or would you want a prostitute to come and remain a prostitute? Why then would you want a homosexual to come to the church and remain gay?



## Business Issues

SOC have heard a lot of grumbling about the registration availability for 2015... who's really responsible for the delay? ... if you know pass it on. What happened to IT Manager Antoine Powell? ... was he fired? Does he own the "ICAS" system??? Why are we left in the dark about these kind of goings on in our church? Too many people are using their personal intellectual properties in the church and are charging an arm and a leg for it...once the church gets hooked on it they take it away. We have people working in Convention Services owning intellectual property and charging the church for it. We need our own systems and make it know to the body. Under the table deals of any kind are unethical and may be unlawful. **LATE NEWS:** Antoine Powell is now working for the General Secretary Office, **Bishop J. Harley Lyles**.... Congratulations Brother Powell. ( if this is true).

## Political Animals

**Is Church politics killing the Church of God in Christ?** Stay honest

When dealing with church politics, I believe one should always stick to the truth ('if only because you don't have to remember what you said,' Mark Twain once said...). And remember that those little white lies are just as much lies as the big fat ones. Even not saying anything can become a lie. That doesn't mean you should always share everything you know with everyone, but if you know your information can make a difference and there's no moral reason to be silent (like a promise of confidentiality), you have to speak up. If someone asks for your opinion, give it, even if it's negative. Speak with love, speak with compassion and empathy, but speak the truth. Finally, don't become a pun in anybody's chess game. God has called the Church to be a holy place not a political place! If we're not careful our church will lose its anointing and purpose for being, just as the Church of England has. Nowadays, the Anglican Church is just a shell of its former self. And we're not far off!

CHURCH OF GOD IN  
CHRIST, INC. -  
MEMPHIS, TN.

**Contact us at:**

Milford.Ranes@gmail.com



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**CHURCH TURMOIL AND 2016**

Can you believe it we are 21 months away from the next quadrennial election! 2016 will be here before you know it. You will begin to see flyers and campaign advertisements all over the place. So..... Who should we elect or re-elect? Well, there's always the usual suspects running for the General Board, most of which don't have a chance... then there are the new bucks running for the General Board, who have not been a jurisdictional bishop for two years... they are not likely to make it also. But there are a few names we at SOC think merits mentioning; **Bishop Bryant, Bishop Connor, Bishop Cahoon, Bishop Hines, and Bishop Matthew Williams.** These five outstanding gentlemen have real potential of getting on the General Board. The Trustee Board will have several openings so if you're interested get ready. The Federal case might hurt some of the current

members on the General Board because of their silence. Looking at all the turmoil in our church I have come to realize that today across the country we are witnessing struggles, splits, and turmoil within various churches at unprecedented levels. I also discovered that I wasn't the only one suffering from disillusionment and searching for God's truth and direction in the midst of it, and I realized that many others in throughout our church feel as I do. We need to seek God for harmony and love among the brethren with a maximum of his anointing. Our Church must stand for righteousness in all things even in church politics. But the turmoil must abate!

