

# Southside Baptist Church

Dr. Walter Handford, Pastor

May 11, 1992

Capt. Oscar Fitzhenry  
1223 Pembroke Drive  
Charleston, SC 29407

Dear Brother Fitzhenry:

I recently received a letter from Pastor John Stevens asking our church to help with the costs of a lawsuit between you and Northside Baptist Church. I recently read a packet of material sent to Steve Keyes by Mark, your son. Then I talked yesterday with Russ McCall, whom I have known for many years.

I understand the position you are in and believe there are unanswered questions which should be resolved. But as I read the Scripture in 1 Corinthians 6 this sort of controversy should be solved among the brethren, not in a court of law. In my judgment, the harm to the cause of Christ there in your city will be serious.

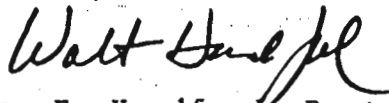
I earnestly asked God if there were not something I could do to help bring healing to the situation. I think I have a reputation for integrity and fairness in our state. Therefore I offer to help mediate the problem. This may seem presumptuous, but I believe God has led me to make this offer. I would ask two trusted laymen from the Greenville area to help. They would need to be acceptable to both parties in the controversy.

Brother Fitzhenry, I believe you know that I would have nothing to gain but only the possibility of protecting the cause of Christ.

I am also writing to Pastor John Stevens and have no idea how he will respond. If both of you would be willing to consider third-party arbitration, I believe we could save a lot of bad publicity and a significant amount of money.

Thanks for listening to my plea.

Sincerely, in Jesus' Name,



Walter E. Handford, Pastor  
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

WEH:rmt

"A Work Of Heart"

Pastor Walter Handford  
Southside Baptist Church  
PO Box 26569  
Greenville, SC 29616

May 14, 1992

Dear Pastor Handford:

Thank you for your kind letter and your obviously sincere concern in this matter. Your offer to promote binding arbitration is neither presumptuous, nor without precedence in this situation. At least two individuals, one a former stockbroker and the other an attorney, have tendered like offers to Mr. Stevens. He refused both offers of arbitration, apparently preferring a civil hearing.

As this situation developed and the unanswered questions about the financial integrity of Northside Baptist mounted, Orin Briggs sent a letter to Mr. Stevens and the Northside Baptist Deacon Board on 12-21-90. He asked for a meeting "with a committee of leadership" for "reasonable access to the financial records" and if there was any "proposed discipline" against Wendy and Mark. This letter was never answered. On January 9, 1991 with no notice, the three of us were "*turned over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh*". It should be noted that the excommunication took place just two days before our January 11, 1991 appointment to review Northside's financial records. On 4-19-91 Orin sent another letter asking for "a good faith gesture meeting" to talk about the denied review of the books and the false charges leveled in the "surprise" excommunication. Only after this correspondence was neglected, and in accordance with the scriptural teachings in Matthew 18:17 and 5:24-26 and Paul's example in Acts 22-25, did we appeal to civil authorities.

Our position has always been one favorable to binding arbitration. For instance, on 8-5-91 I sent a registered letter offering to drop the suit if Mr. Stevens would agree to "binding arbitration." On behalf of Northside, Mr. Dan Loomis of CLA, rejected my offer in the attached letter.

Once again, thank you for your concern and efforts. I have attached some supporting documentation.

In Christ,

Lt. Colonel Oscar C. Fitzhenry  
USAF (Ret.)

# Southside Baptist Church

Dr. Walter Handford, Pastor

July 7, 1992


Lt. Colonel Oscar C. Fitzhenry  
1223 Pembroke Drive  
Charleston, SC 29407

Dear Brother Fitzhenry:

Thanks for your letter. I'm sorry to say that although you expressed a willingness to arbitrate your differences with Northside Baptist Church, they were not.

It is a sad day when Christians cannot sit down together and allow the Holy Spirit to resolve problems.

Sorrowfully,



Walter E. Handford, Pastor

WEH:rt

"A Work Of Heart"

1223 Pembroke Drive  
Charleston, SC 29407  
August 5, 1991

Dr. John Stevens  
Northside Baptist Church  
7800 Northside Drive  
North Charleston, SC 29418

Dear Dr. Stevens:

The sole purpose of this letter is to address the two pertinent issues which precipitated the legal action against Northside Baptist Church leadership: first, opening the books, and second, adherence to the rules and procedures as stipulated in the Northside constitution and by-laws.

This legal action can be stopped immediately if the leadership of Northside will follow the constitutional provisions mandating the opening of the books to a legitimate outside CPA audit, and void the excommunication for the removal of a church officer and church members.

It should be everyone's desire to resolve the many problems enunciated in the complaint through mediation. Is there any reason why you would not wish to submit these matters to outside binding arbitration?

Should the church leadership be receptive to the above, please call or contact me this week.

Sincerely,



Oscar Fitzhenry