

Answer to Bill of Complaint

Bethel Tabernacle, an unincorporated religious association, J. Vernon Boone, Silas T. Rickards, and Marshall Bell, Trustees of Bethel Tabernacle, an unincorporated religious association, and J. Vernon Boone, Silas T. Rickards, Marshall Bell, Charles Masser and Katherine Klipp, individually and as members of the congregation of Bethel Tabernacle, an unincorporated religious association.	"	No. 13,686 Equity
	"	In the Circuit Court
	"	For Frederick County
	"	Sitting as a Court
	"	of Equity.
	"	
vs.	"	
Evelyn D. Becker, Elizabeth A. Beylor, William Elmer Sittig and William Layman.	"	
	"	

TO THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT:

The Answer of Evelyn D. Becker, Elizabeth A. Beylor, William Elmer Sittig and William Layman to the Bill of Complaint filed in the above entitled cause respectfully shows:

(1) That the Defendants demur to the Plaintiffs' Bill of Complaint and for cause of demurrer say:

A. That the Bill does not show that the Complainants are parties in interest or have authority to bring this action.

B. That the Bill does not show or state any legal cause of action against the Defendants.

C. That the Complainants have not stated a case which entitles them to relief in Equity.

D. That the Bill does not state the exact capacity in which the Defendants are made parties.

(2) That, answering the Bill of Complaint and without waiver of any rights set forth in the demurrer aforesaid, these Respondents say:

1. That, contrary to the statement mentioned in the first paragraph of the Bill of Complaint, the congregation known as Bethel Tabernacle was organized in March, 1931, and, as stated in the Bill of Complaint, the congregation joined the General Council Assemblies of God, having its executive offices in Springfield, Missouri; and these Respondents admit the purchase by the congregation of the real estate described in the Bill of Complaint from Baylor U. Crist and wife, conveyed by the deeds mentioned therein; and these Respondents admit the congregation to be known as Bethel Tabernacle, and that it is an unincorporated religious association.

2. That, responding to the second paragraph of the Bill of Complaint, these Respondents admit that Marshall Bell, J. Vernon Boone and Silas T. Rickerds acted as Trustees after organization until November 24, 1934, but deny that the Defendant, Evelyn D. Becker, arbitrarily and without notice, declared them no longer Trustees, but aver that the said Marshall Bell, J. Vernon Boone and Silas T. Rickerds requested that they be relieved as Trustees and that their names be removed from the mortgage which they had executed to the Farmers & Mechanics National Bank, and, upon said request, by congregational action, new Trustees were elected in the persons of William C. Geesey, William Layman and Elizabeth A. Beylor.

3. That these Respondents admit the allegations of the third and fourth paragraphs of the Bill of Complaint.

4. That, answering the fifth paragraph of the Bill of Complaint, these Respondents aver that William C. Geesey was not a member of the Bethel Tabernacle congregation and that his election as Trustee was made because of the understanding that persons signing the mortgage note and mortgage must necessarily be Trustees and the Farmers & Mechanics