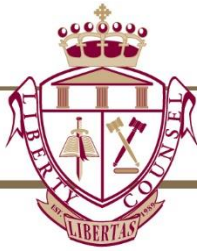


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## REPLY TO FLORIDA

January 14, 2020

### Via Electronic Filing

The Honorable Scott S. Harris  
Clerk of the Court  
Supreme Court of the United States  
One First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20543

RE: *Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church, et al. v. Pritkzer*, No. 20-569  
Petitioners Opposition to Second Request for Extension of Time to File  
Response to Petition for Writ of Certiorari

Dear Clerk Harris:

On October 22, 2020, Petitioner filed their Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with this Court. After waiting until the day before his Response would be due, Respondent then subsequently informed the Court and Petitioners that he did not intend to respond and was expressly waiving a response. Thus, **the initial delay in the instant matter was 29 days**. Ten days later, the day before Petitioners' Petition was set to be conferenced by the Court on December 11, 2020, this Court requested a response from Respondent to be filed on December 30, 2020. **The second response period thus provided a total of 69 days for Respondent to prepare and submit a response to the Petition.**

On December 15, 2020, in the middle of the second response period, Respondent requested yet another 30-day extension, to and including January 29, 2020, which this Court granted on December 16, 2020. **This third response period thus provided Respondent a total of 99 days in which to prepare and submit a response to the Petition.**

Now, Respondent comes to this Court requesting yet another delay in the Response period, which – if granted – would require Petitioners to remain unanswered for 130 days, **over four months**, since they filed their Petition.

*Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church v. Pritker*  
No. 20-569  
Response Opposing Motion for Extension of Time  
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Petitioners' Petition raised issues of seminal importance to the First Amendment. Indeed, in a matter very similar to the issues presented in the instant Petition, this Court held that "[t]he restrictions at issue here, by effectively barring many from attending religious services, strike at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty. Before allowing this to occur, we have a duty to conduct a serious examination of the need for such a drastic measure." *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*, 141 S. Ct. 63, 68 (2020). Respondents' requested further delay imposes harm on Petitioners by having to wait for final adjudication by this Court of these critical issues.

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioners respectfully request that the second request for an extension be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathew D. Staver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line striking through the middle of the name.

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