



1919 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-955-0095 / ✉@becketfund
www.becketfund.org

October 22, 2026

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Scott S. Harris, Clerk
Supreme Court of the United States
1 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20543

RE: *Donald Christian v. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*, No. 26-466

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty represents respondent the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in this matter. The petition for a writ of certiorari was filed on October 5, 2026, and was docketed on October 7, 2026. Presently, respondent's brief in opposition is due on November 6, 2026.

Pursuant to Rules 15.3 and 30.4 of this Court, respondent respectfully requests a 30-day extension of time within which to file a brief in opposition. Because that 30-day period ends on December 6, a Sunday, the requested new deadline would become December 7 under Rule 30.1. This extension is requested to provide counsel with adequate time to prepare a brief in opposition that will best assist the Court in its consideration of this petition. Counsel possesses substantial preexisting obligations in other matters before this Court and elsewhere, and additional time would also allow counsel to better assess other pending and likely petitions that raise questions under the First Amendment's church autonomy doctrine similar to the question presented here. See, e.g., *Singh v. Second Jud. Dist. Ct. of Nev.*, No. 26-157 (brief in opposition due Nov. 23, 2026); see also Order, *Belya v. Kapral*, No. 25-1085 (2d Cir. Oct. 1, 2026), Dkt. 95 (denying en banc rehearing); Letter Motion, *Belya v. Kapral*, No. 20-cv-6597 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 13, 2026), Dkt. 173 (explaining plaintiff "currently plans to file a petition for certiorari").

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Blomberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Daniel Blomberg
Vice President and Senior Counsel
The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

cc: Renea Hicks, counsel of record for petitioners