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## A bold experiment in settlement negotiations

Melody A. Kramer / 11 mins ago

Over the years I have been involved in a few lawsuits that involved close-knit organizations of one type or another. Invariably, the lawsuit would become a matter of discussion, gossip, and sometimes retribution, often based on incomplete (or wrong) information, and lack of meaningful discussion or attempts to resolve the dispute between all of the members of the organization. Settlement conferences or mediations conducted as part of the litigation process were all done secretly leaving everyone to speculate (and accuse) about why the case had settled or not settled.

I know this is bold and unorthodox, but I want to experiment with another way of conducting settlement negotiations, sort of. My recent filing of the [Myhre v. Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, et al](#), case, has already prompted worldwide interest and social media discussion among the parties, members or former members of this church organization, and others. As far as I can tell, those public discussions have been reasonably respectful and thoughtful and have shared some of the positions and concerns on each side of the debate. This, I think, might be a healthy and helpful experiment in cooperative problem solving. So, I am expanding the venue for this. I have created a [semi-private page](#) for those with a genuine interest in either the details of this case, or attempting to assist a peaceful resolution to a dispute that has already blossomed into a lawsuit, you are welcome to read and/or contribute by comment.

Rules for participation –

1. This is my [page](#) and my discussion venue; if my bold experiment seems to not

be fostering any helpful dialogue, or for any other reasons I choose to close it down, I retain full rights to do so.

2. Although the page has restricted access, consider that anything you post on it is being posted publicly, so act accordingly.
3. Disagreement is permissible, but only respectful dialogue is permitted, and I maintain the sole discretion to determine what is or is not "respectful dialogue" and I reserve the block or not permit postings in my sole discretion.
4. In keeping with the general goal of settlement discussions, nothing posted on the page will be considered to be a binding admission of any material fact by any of the parties to the lawsuit. This is intended to help, not hurt the litigation and/or settlement process.

Comments or suggestions to this process are welcome here, but you will need to obtain the password to read and comment on the semi-private page.

Anyone closely related to the parties should be able to ascertain the password from the following 3 clues.

The password is in the following alpha/numeric format —0000XXX000000

The first four digits are an important year, the next three are initials of an important person (all caps), and the final six digits are an important number.

You may also contact me to obtain the password -

Name (required)

Email (required)

PASSWORD REQUEST (required)

What is the nature of your interest in accessing this semi-private settlement discussion? (required)

Member or former member of organization ...