

OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

TEASDALE & ASSOCIATES,)	No. ED96633
)	
Respondent,)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
)	of St. Louis County
vs.)	
)	Honorable Ellen H. Ribaud
RICHMOND HEIGHTS CHURCH)	
OF GOD IN CHRIST,)	
)	
Appellant,)	FILED: May 29, 2012

Richmond Heights Church of God in Christ (“Church”) appeals from the trial court’s judgment in favor of Teasdale & Associates (“Teasdale”) in an action on account. Church raises several arguments on appeal. First, Church contends the record lacks sufficient evidence that its employee had the requisite authority to bind Church on the contract for legal services upon which Teasdale’s claim is based. Church also contends insufficient evidence exists that the legal fees charged were reasonable, or that Teasdale demanded payment for the unpaid debt. Next, Church suggests Teasdale was precluded from pursuing an action against Church for the underlying debt because Teasdale could have recovered from the employee directly. Finally, Church alleges the trial court erroneously admitted and improperly considered evidence of Church’s bylaws.

AFFIRMED

Division IV Holds: The record contains sufficient evidence that Church’s employee had the authority to bind Church to the contract with Teasdale on the underlying debt, Teasdale rendered associated legal services, and the amount charged by Teasdale for such services was reasonable. We further hold that any potential recovery Teasdale may have had against Church’s employee did not preclude Teasdale from obtaining judgment against Church. Finally, the trial court did not err in granting limited admission of Church’s bylaws.

Opinion by: Kurt S. Odenwald, C.J., Patricia L. Cohen, J., and Robert M. Clayton III, J., Concur.

Attorney for Appellant: Nadine V. Nunn

Attorney for Respondent: James N. Fendelman and William L. Floodman III

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE OPINION OF THE COURT. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE READER AND SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED OR CITED.