

From: James MacDonald

Date: July 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM

To: David Sciachter, Paul Cornwell, Karl Jackson

Brothers:

David Schlacter is a good man and his efforts sincere but please consider releasing him to less complex peacemaking matters elsewhere - i believe he will be relieved.

My Guidance:

I am under Chris Clark, Mike Lankford, and Jim Dvoratchek - all men of Elder status in that they have served or been invited to serve in the positions you now hold. Per the bylaws - a man does not become an Elder when he joins the board nor does he cease to be one when he leaves the board in good standing.

My Sin:

In addition to my sin and failing which i fully own and repent of.

My sin of leading the church out of hurt and foolishly leading to file the lawsuit which had such devastating consequences - which prompted me to resign and desire to leave after confessing same to entire congregation which i offered to do and am still willing. Beyond my ultimate failure to live beyond the hurt i experienced and find effective partners to bear the load with me and my sinful idolatry of paying down the debt - i am deeply grieved to learn of those who felt hurt by my management of them and would yet welcome an opportunity to confess this publicly or seek their forgiveness in private or both as you men believe would be best for the church. There is much more on the subject of my failings i would gladly confess in person and have so long sought that opportunity without response that at times i have despaired.

Understandable Hesitance

Your apparent reluctance to seek out significant responsibility elsewhere in this relational disaster, is understandable given the consequences if that turns out to be true. But time only accumulates consequence to the church you are called to protect, thus my strenuous and at times too shrill, (please forgive me), efforts to meet as brothers in Christ and consider the best interest of Harvest and all concerned.

Why Arbitrate:

There is zero reason to waste God's money on arbitration, but genuine oversight in my view needs to attempt understanding what is concealed versus your May 1 debut of beating the drum 🥁 handed you and widening the gap of offense significantly. The focus needs to become doing what is right and trusting God with the outcomes rather than defending the indefensible - a foundational principle in a Vertical Church.

Thank You for Taking a Tough Task

Thank you for undertaking such a difficult task for the Lord and for Harvest - i am very aware that unlike me, you did nothing to contribute to the mess you inherited. But please consider more carwfully who you are listening to...

Even if the "captain" truly had to go - the truth is never learned by talking to the pirates that made him walk the plank is it? - And the congregation is better served by obvious Elder objectivity and disinterest in the rabble. I do not judge you in this having listened far too much to the loudest over the wisest and knowing the immense pressure of the mob. No doubt washing your hands of it all is a great temptation.

Are You Humble Brothers?

Is there humility among the current Harvest Elders. Is there any sense that maybe those who proceeded you have wronged us and the church in ways you may not have understood? Is there any openness to the things expressed by the men named above, in the correspondence they have written to you? I am puzzled at David S. offering dates to meet like July 17 when you already know i am far away many hundreds of miles in an overdue time with kathy and i to seek healing and renewal with the Lord that we had hoped to have your assistance with - thus the heavy pressure to meet before we left on this personal journey.

Are you humble Darren? Brian? Tim? David? Karl? And others i do not know personally? Do you esteem others better than yourself? I beg you to be better than i have been in my failings and better than those who campaigned for my ruin ...

I waited 85 days to meet with w any pastor or Elder anytime anywhere. Last tuesday i was 5 minutes away as you met ... and I am told you were informed of my availability - i was willing to come but alas - the circled wagons of "we must all be present" seems to have taken precedence over actual scripture such as Matthew 5:25 which exhorts us to "come to terms quickly with your adversary."

I am alone with Kathy in Nova Scotia and we have driven here. We are on our way to a never before - once in a life time MacDonald family reunion and cannot be back in Chicago until July 24. August 5-10 i have promised a group of men to be away with them. By then the arbitration will be irrevocable as it nearly is now.

Inside those restrictions i will do what ever Mike, Chris and Jim request of me. We cannot be better until we do better - i have much to be offended about, yet i reach past the injustice and needless delay to again own some of my sin and invite interaction with men i barely know ... what are you doing to bridge the gap brothers? The "it's all James" scenario is a staff self-protection invention, and the church will [not] be protected if its current elders keep the many realities they do not yet know from coming to light in a legal proceeding. I seek to cover the sin of a church that uncovered and publicized my own and added much more falsehood to it. I offer grace still but the hour grows late and the opportunity to gain ground as brothers grows mold in your laps ...

Please take a courageous step and believe that at heart I am the man you loved for many years - broken not angry - aware of his own sin as well as seeking the resolution of what others have done - nuanced matters needing elder dexterity not broad brush strokes and generalized condemnation - this is my appeal - why not run to me and break bread and inventory what has happened and let me own my sin - and together seek to right the wrongs that have been done and then let us go our way in peace.

James