

1010 Stirling Street  
Coatesville, PA 19320

August 12, 2004

James Sauer  
Clerk of Session  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church

To James Sauer, Clerk of Session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church of the Presbyterian Church in America.

And now, this eleventh day of August, A.D. 2004, comes Thomas C. Albrecht III and Sarah Joy Albrecht and complains about the action of the session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in connection with the censuring of Tom and Sarah Albrecht without trial, and slandering our character by presuming us guilty without process.

In support of said complaint, the complaintants set forth the following reasons:

- The session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church (IPC) has written to Tom and Sarah Albrecht with information gathered by hearsay, and censured us based on that information.
- In a letter dated July 13, 2004, the session had stated that they were appointing an elder to conduct an investigation based on BCO 31-2 and 31-5.
- In a letter dated July 27, 2004, the session then declared the parties being investigated as guilty, and imposing sanctions, apparently ignoring BCO 31-2, which states that “[i]f such investigation, however originating, should result in raising a strong presumption of the guilt of the party involved, the court shall institute process...” Once an investigation has originated, and guilt is “strongly presumed”, instituting process is not optional for the session.
- In the letter dated July 27, 2004, the session of IPC admonished both of us without process. BCO 30-1 states that “The censures of admonition or definite suspension from office shall be administered to an accused who, upon conviction, satisfies the court as to his repentance and makes such restitution as is appropriate.” As no accusation has been made, nor has guilt has been found, nor has any conviction been handed down, such censure is inappropriate.

Complaintant

Thomas C Albrecht III  
Sarah Joy Albrecht