

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Date: April 18, 2005

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To: Bruce Howes, Clerk
Robert Almond, Moderator
Heritage Presbytery

Re: Request to Assume Jurisdiction of Albrecht III case

Gentlemen:

Whereas the Session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church will by April 30th consist of one active Ruling Elder—

Whereas of May we will (Lord willing) have a new pastor who has only some knowledge of the issues and incidents under concern, and will have tasks of transition and pastoral care of the church—

Whereas the Session wishes to avoid all partiality in adjudication and further complaints to Presbytery from the investigated parties—

Whereas BOCO 13-9 says: “The Presbytery has power to received and issue appeals, complaints, and references brought before it in an orderly manner. **In cases in which the Session cannot exercise its authority, it shall have power to assume original jurisdiction.**”

Whereas Morton Smith’s Commentary on the Book of Church Order concurs that BOCO permits a Presbytery to assume original jurisdiction when the Session is unable to exercise its authority—citing examples by Ramsay of “where there is but one member of the Session,” and “in every matter for which the Session as it exists is disqualified by the relation of its members to the matter”—

Therefore, we petition the Heritage Presbytery to establish a commission and to assume original jurisdiction, and to examine the issues involving Thomas Albrecht III and Sarah Albrecht in the “Bondage for Beginners” Shower Gift Incident of June 19th, 2004; and that the commission investigate to determine if Biblical repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation have been achieved; that they investigate whether charges should be made against Thomas and Sarah Albrecht; and if so, that they draft the charges and prosecute the trial on behalf of Immanuel Presbyterian church.

To God’s glory,

James L. Sauer,
Clerk of Session

Cc : Thomas Albrecht III and Sarah Albrecht