Subject: Re: Response to July 13 Letter
From: "James Sauer" <jsauer@eastern.edu>
Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2004 10:12:16 -0400
To: Tom Albrecht III <talbrech@speakeasy.net>
CC: Doreian@juno.com,jsauer@eastern.edu,Wfbrauning@aol.com, idou@earthlink.net,rob_miller@urscorp.com, cjcatranis@subnetsys.com

Tom:
The Session will have a called meeting on July 28th.
We will communicate with you after that time.
I will, however, take this note to indicate that you wish to have extracts from the Session minutes pertaining to you and Sarah sent on a regular basis.

Jim Sauer,
Clerk of Session

At 11:39 PM 7/16/04 -0400, you wrote:

> James Sauer
> Clerk of Session
> Immanuel Presbyterian Church
>
> Jim
>
> I received your letter of July 13, and the minutes of July 6.
>
> While I'm sure that any honest investigation will uncover the truth, my wife and I felt obliged to respond t some of the statements in your July
> 13 letter. The letter and minutes also raise a few questions.
>
> 1) Simon Tack and Mike Harnish's desire to attend a session meeting does not at all indicate that I wanted to discuss the situation with them. It was our belief that any meeting of a church court, whether of a session, presbytery, or general assembly, are public meetings, but it is assumed that those attending the meeting have no right to speak. Since this is the case, there was no desire to bring them "into the discussion", except to listen. I'm sure both Mike and Simon are available if you would like to verify this with them, but I did not attempt to "bring them in" to any meeting.
>
> 2) Until this point, while I have heard individual elders refer to the "incident" as a public event, I have not yet heard any official declaration. Can I consider your letter of July 13 an official declaration of the incident as "public"? Until this point, I have tried my best to treat the incident as private, and it would be helpful to know if the session has chosen to declare the incident a public one, as the status will help determine our course of action.
>
> The fact that the session chose to exclude two church members from a session meeting discussing a public incident does leave me a bit confused. If the session has decided to declare the incident public, then I would be more than happy to listen to the council of Simon, Mike, and many other people in the church, and I hope that the members of session are willing to do so as well.

> 3) While I appreciate receiving the requested excerpts from the session minutes, I'd like for you to clear up a few issues. First, there is a discrepancy in the date, as they are dated, "Monday, July 6" and July 6, 2004 was a Tuesday. Could you please verify the date of the session meeting? Secondly, the minutes do not contain any contextual information. Could you please resend me the minutes, along with the information on the time, place, and the names of the session members who participated in the meeting?
>
> 4) Can I make an ongoing request to have all the minutes (including the contextual information) for all motions regarding my wife and I at every session meeting, or do I need to make each request as the meetings occur? If the former, please consider this my formal request, and if the latter, please let me know when any session meeting occurs that discusses us.
>
> 5) My wife is sad that the session has decided to remove her from a leadership role in Great Godly Girls and WIC. Has the session taken it upon themselves to notify the WIC members, or does Sarah need to do it herself?
>
> Tom Albrecht III