

Subject: Re: Requested Session Meeting
From: Tom Albrecht III <talbrech@speakeasy.net>
Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 12:13:35 -0400
To: James Sauer <jsauer@eastern.edu>

James Sauer wrote:

Tom:

The Session continues to request your presence on July 12th.

Jim,

Thanks for the response, Jim...

I'm writing two emails to you, one personal, and the other to the Clerk of Session. There's nothing in the personal one that I consider private, but I just want to make it clear that the one addressed to the Clerk of Session is to the Session as a whole (as it's the session who is requesting this meeting). This also applies to the last email I wrote, which was addressed to the Clerk of Session, and I expect that the members of the session will all receive a copy.

The issues listed sound more like the cause for a pastoral visit, not a court appearance. FYI, Pastor Brauning did come by and we already discussed most of the issues you've listed, although, he and I did not come to the same conclusion on many of the details. I'm unsure as to why an appearance before the session is now necessary.

I understand the Biblical principles related to the shower incident. Pastor Brauning came by, and gave us his interpretation, which I disagreed with, and told him so. Communicating Biblical principles to members of the congregation informally is the role of the Pastor and ruling elders individually, and not the role of court. The words "informal" and "session" don't belong anywhere near each other. If my elder and Pastor Brauning want to sit down with my wife and I again and discuss the list you've given, we would be more than happy to do so. But we don't think it's appropriate to have such a meeting in front of session.

Also, if based on hearsay or gossip, you or any other member of the congregation who was not in attendance, have an issue with what happened at the shower, my wife and I are also more than happy to sit down and humbly listen, but only once it's established that we're really not happy with the way that gossip has been spreading around the church. We're very concerned when people are calling my wife and saying, "I heard what happened, and we're praying for you..." with no regard for the sin of receiving gossip.

How much of the supposed damage to our reputation is based on gossip being spread around the church? Before the session tells us what we need to do to restore our reputation, perhaps the elders should look into the spread of gossip around the church.

tca iii