



# Community Chapel & Bible Training Center

10635 6th Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98148

Pastor Donald Lee Darnell

Phone: (206) 431-3100

Sanctuary located at First Avenue South and South 192nd

February 15, 1988

Dear Pastor Don,

We three, Jack DuBois, Jack Hicks, and Scott Hartley, wish to express our personal love and compassion for you. It is deep and genuine. We have much empathy for you in your distressful and agonizing situations. We wish you could have been spared these things. Nevertheless, we are expectant that our God and His Son, Jesus Christ, to whom you have committed your life will do a renewing and perfecting work in you for His and your ultimate glory.

We wish to address in this letter matters related to the eldership/committee hearings and your testimony given before this group. The hearings, albeit, are not over and no committee decisions or judgments have been made as yet. That will doubtless be some time yet. Our subject of this letter is not an elder/committee hearing matter, but a Senior Elder/Corporate Board of Directors matter.

Based solely upon your admissions before the hearing as to the frequency and the relatively large number of women with which you have participated in various degrees of sexual misconduct, we firmly believe that Senior Elder Board intervention is necessary for the future protection of the women in our church. We believe that before God and His Word that we are charged to institute protective measures. We see clearly that we have scriptural authority for this. Also, you have publicly stated in print (Balance 2) that you hold yourself accountable to the Senior Elders and acknowledge their authority to require correction of you. Further, our church Articles of Incorporation and the laws of the State of Washington authorize the Board of Directors and require them to reasonably protect the corporation from liability arising out of tortious acts of employees.

We accept your statement of repentance before God for the aforementioned acts. We accept your statement that such behavior has ceased but that must be verified. Nevertheless, the extensive and frequent abuses over the last couple of years which you admit to demand us to take reasonable and prudent steps to assure that similar events will not recur. At this point we believe it is wholly unreasonable to rely upon your profession that such tendencies in your life are now absent. It is apparent that many of the same pressures that contributed to your fall are still existent in your life.

In order to properly and responsibly execute the word of God and our responsibility to this church we must institute certain safeguards for the women of our church. We believe it is our duty before God, our church, and the laws of the State of Washington, to place you on "Special Status." The terms of this special status are:

1. Not be alone with any female not your wife in any non-public place. This includes your home and covers both your professional and private life. The only exceptions to this would be Bonnie Martin, your

Special Status Letter

Mr. Don

(2)

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secretary, and the volunteer cleaning girls arranged by Service Ministries (on the condition they not be close friends of yours), and then only during the usual weekday time hours of 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

- 2. Not take any woman not your wife with you on any vacations or trips.
- 3. Not counsel any woman alone.
- 4. To confine any time spent in the company of women not your wife to group situations.

Duration: Indefinite.

We deeply, deeply regret that taking such steps has become necessary. However, the behavior of your personal life has left us with no other reasonable and prudent alternative.

We implore you to sweetly accept this action and not make an issue of it in any way before the congregation. So many people are aware of the circumstances that to do so would likely result in dragging the entire issue in front of the congregation. We know you don't want that, nor do we. If that happened, we feel it could precipitate events which would have a high probability of bringing your ministry here to an end. We do not want to see that.

If, peradventure, you may believe that the above special status action is without authority, and our understanding of our responsibilities as directors of the corporation are erroneous, we ask you to first consult your attorney before raising such an issue to us. In such regard, we also refer you to the two most recent letters from Jim Leach, Attorney, dated January 22, 1988, and February 8, 1988 (copies attached).

We respectfully ask you to receive the above status as from the Lord. We are fully mindful of the scriptural teachings on mercy and grace. We feel we are extending mercy and grace. We are also mindful of the scriptural teachings regarding sowing and reaping. Forgiveness of sins doesn't erase all the consequences.

Our hearts deeply hurt for you, our dear pastor, friend, and fellow elder of God. We have taken the action we feel we must in order to protect the flock, satisfy the Scripture, obey the civil law, and execute fairness toward everyone. We could not in good conscience do any less toward anyone else in this church.

In our Master's Service,

*Jack DuBois*  
 Jack DuBois  
*Jack Hicks*  
 Jack Hicks  
*Scott Hartley*  
 Scott Hartley