

Letter From the Board of Elders & Pastor to the Congregation – After the Contentious Special Voter’s Meeting on February 2

Dear Beloved Church Family,

We hope this message finds you surrounded by God’s love and grace in Christ. With hearts overflowing with love and genuine concern, we felt compelled to connect with you all. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a vibrant and caring community.

As we reflect on our recent voter’s meeting, we recognize that there were some moments of tension that may have left some of our dear members feeling uneasy, especially those who are newer to our family. We want to acknowledge that while some comments might have come across as surprising, we rejoice in how the Holy Spirit guided our discussions. Together, we’re embarking on an exciting journey to expand our church and school ministries, bringing new life to a vacant building and adding a 3rd Grade to our growing school.

Let us hold onto the beautiful truth that, regardless of how we may have voted, we are united as one body in Christ. Our love for one another and our shared mission is what truly matters.

The Unity of the Body

The Apostle Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, provides us with a profound understanding of our interconnectedness and unity. In 1 Corinthians 12, he eloquently describes the church as one body with many parts, each playing a vital role. Paul writes:

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

This powerful imagery reminds us that, despite our differences, we are united in Christ. Each one of us with our unique gifts and perspectives and each ministry of our congregation and school contributes to the whole, making our congregation diverse and better equipped to be the light of Christ in this world. No part of our congregation can ever say to another part of our congregation, “I don’t need you” (1 Corinthians 12:21).

If we trust that God works through us--often in spite of “us”--than we can trust that it is not by accident that our church and school have seen growth, opportunities for expansion, and incredible outpourings of financial support. Let us pray as a body that He gives us wisdom to navigate through every challenge as we move into the future serving Him.

Building Bridges

As we journey together through times of disagreement, let’s take every opportunity to build bridges instead of walls. In our meetings, let’s commit ourselves to understanding each other’s perspectives, showing compassion, and extending the grace that God has given us. It’s so important that we strive to interpret each other’s actions with kindness, always putting the best

construction on everything. Let's remember that no ministry, board, or leader in our church operates with anything less than good intentions and a desire to serve our community.

By nurturing this spirit of love and understanding, we honor the beautiful unity that Christ has graciously given us. We recognize that our face-to-face Voter's Meetings can sometimes feel intense, but we are thankful that the openness of these gatherings allows for transparency. Everything shared in these meetings is done in the light, never shrouded in whispers or secrets. Among God's people, we have no room for grudges or gossip; instead, let's embody the love and grace that bind us together.

Moving Forward Together

We urge each of you to reflect on your role within our congregation. How can you contribute to the unity and growth of our church and school? How can your unique gifts serve the greater good? By working together in love and harmony, we can overcome any challenges that come our way.