



Steven Takata <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Process?

Kurt elting-ballard <[REDACTED]@bethlehem.church>
To: Steven and Janette Takata <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Tom Lutz <[REDACTED]@bethlehem.church>

Wed, Mar 17, 2021 at 9:03 PM

Dear Steve and Janette,

I appreciate your patience today in awaiting my reply.

Yesterday evening the Council of Elders met to discuss the charges and grievance that you presented to Andy Naselli in the presence of witnesses (Jenni Naselli, [REDACTED], Daniel Kleven, and elders Tom Lutz, Steven Lee, and Ming-Jinn Tong,). The charges of sin which encompassed this grievance were detailed in 6 points (A-F in your letter) and in summation which included scripture (James 3:13-18, 1 John 1:5-10, Jude 3-4, James 3:1). They were submitted "in obedience to the Bible, our church by-laws, the Elder Affirmation of Faith, and in the confidence and leading of the Holy Spirit." The Council took this grievance and your words extremely seriously, for this is a grave and weighty matter. After prayerful, thorough, thoughtful, careful investigation and consideration of this grievance and charges, the Council of Elders states the following:

The Council of Elders does not find the grievance brought by Steve and Janette Takata against Andy Naselli as true or substantial. Further, this grievance requires no further investigation or consideration.

You submitted this with "godly affection for [Andy] and with godly sorrow." It is not an easy thing to bring something like this forward. To my knowledge, this type of grievance has not ever been brought against an elder at Bethlehem. My prayer for you is that the Lord will continue to be your shelter. Throughout the last 6 or so weeks, the Lord has kept me in Psalm 27. It has a profound and deep meaning in my life. I offer now to you in expectation that the Lord will use his word to bless you.

With Affection,

Kurt

[Quoted text hidden]