

Lori Harding

1 message

Lori Harding

To:

Tue, Aug 17, 2021 at 6:13 PM

Good evening Rob,

I hope this note finds you well.

I am sure you recall the evening Peter and I agreed to meet with you at your request. It was a brave thing for you to do, ask for my forgiveness with no excuses or defense. I remember vividly being physically shaken by the deep trauma I had been holding over the course of the prior year following that horrific meeting on March 13, 2014 in Tullian's office. When I say physically shaken, you may have noticed my entire body shaking as you talked. You offered to answer questions but I could barely speak. I asked nothing. The single most transformative word you gave me was, *there was nothing wrong with you, you were well.*

Fast forward, it has been seven years. You apologized for your part and I am grateful for that. But the church and Session was responsible for the out of control behavior of the pastor and at least two elders stood by and watched. The week after I was fired I had to walk into a seminary class at Knox not knowing who knew what. Clark Cochran sat at the front of the class. Ashamed and humiliated I chose a seat in the back row. I never sat in the front section of a seminary class again. My family lost every relationship we had built over the years. We were shunned by everyone except four of my closest friends. My extended community abandoned me...Kimm Crandall, Lauren Larkin and the Dropping Keys community. No one believed me. No one listened. Peter has never been to church again and will never go back to a church as a result of how we were treated. You might recall he was a deacon at the time. No one called him or reached out to him. I could go on, but I won't.

My purpose for writing this letter is to make a request of you as the senior leader at CRPC. I have never had closure on what took place. What happened to me was public. The women's Bible study group was told I was not well. That was public. Staff was told I was not well. That was public. I faced an onslaught of judgement from a group of 20+ devout Liberate fans who deserted me. That was public.

In light of these wrongs, I humbly request **an apology from CRPC in word and a monetary demonstration of repentance.** Please, do not hear this as a demand. I make no demands whatsoever. Far from a demand, this is a call for closure to something very painful in my life that was wrought at the hands of the church I loved and served, and a church that now has the ability to make things right and do what is good. The reason for the request for repentance in the form of a monetary amount is to signal a *demonstration* of the words of repentance. You could call it a lived theology, a sign of goodness, a demonstration of the gospel, if you will. (Side Note: You might recall that an NDA was presented and Peter and I made the decision to forgo the monetary settlement offer and not sign the agreement.)

I will close with these words from Scot McKnight in his recent work, [A Church Called TOV](#).

The church can only witness to the truth of Jesus by seeking justice, serving with humility, operating transparently, and confessing and lamenting failures.

In a healthy, TOV culture, leaders will avoid denial and spin, in favor of finding and telling the truth—even when the truth is painful.

This request presents an opportunity for the church community of CRPC to serve with humility, confess and lament failure, and bind up the brokenhearted. My hope is that she rises to meet it.

Peace,

Lori

Rev. Lori Harding



The Truth Says Examine Me - Unknown