

FIRST BAPTIST

FORT LAUDERDALE

July 16, 2021

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Dear [REDACTED]

The purpose of this letter is to further explain the dynamics of church discipline and outline the next steps in that process for you.

As we are all painfully aware, this past year, we have experienced disagreement, discord, and division that continues to hinder the internal ministry and external outreach of our church. Your ongoing behavior during the course of this conflict has contributed to discord within our church, encouraged divisions, and created obstacles as warned against in Proverbs 6:16-19 and Romans 16:17-18. For this reason, **the Trustees voted unanimously to remove you as a member of this church.**

Our church bylaws (Section 3.4) also include a process for church discipline when members conduct themselves in a manner contrary to biblical standards or leaders fail to fulfill the expectations and duties of service to which they committed. Church discipline is initiated and administered by the Trustee Board, and when biblical discipline is necessary, the Trustees have the authority and the responsibility to place individual(s) under church discipline, including termination of membership. However, it shall be a high priority for the church to restore such persons to fellowship, as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17.

I know that this situation has been difficult for you as it is for church leadership. We hope you can understand the prayerful deliberations that preceded initiating this process with individuals with whom we have long served together.

Consideration for membership with our church in the future is only possible after a minimum one-year waiting period in which time we ask that you earnestly pray about your role in this conflict, then actively participate in a Peacemakers Ministry conflict resolution mediation

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course, seek forgiveness from those who have been injured by your actions, and submit to the guidelines and process for church membership in place at that time.

As we lift you and everyone involved in this matter up in prayer, we ask that you similarly pray for church leadership as we seek the Lord's face and seek His wisdom and discernment in the days ahead.

Until then, every blessing.

Gratefully,

The First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale Trustee Board