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From: **CBC Elders** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, May 3, 2024 at 4:48 PM

Subject: Letter from CBC Elders

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Dear Josh and Ginny,

As we pen this message, our hearts are weighed down, much like Paul's when he wrote to the churches of his time, seeking to nurture unity and mend divisions. It is in this spirit of heartfelt care and concern for the body of Christ that we reach out to you today.

Following a comprehensive investigation into the issues you raised concerning our church leadership, we affirm that our pastors and staff have consistently acted in accordance with Biblical principles and the ethos of discipleship that defines our community. While no human is free from imperfection, the evidence reviewed meticulously upheld the integrity of our church leaders.

While the nature of your allegations significantly distressed the fabric of our community, we continued to address them using deep reflection and fervent prayer. Like Paul who appealed to his brothers and sisters for reconciliation and peace, we too have reached out to bridge our differences, desiring nothing more than to restore unity. Despite these attempts, you have not responded or been willing to meet with our church leadership as outlined in Matthew 18:15-16. In your written correspondence, you have stated that you will seek to "tell others", which we have taken as a blatant threat to the church. While we care for you, we will not tolerate nor stand by as shepherds and allow false accusations or gossip to be used as a tool to divide our church family.

Therefore, after prayerful consideration and with heavy hearts, we find it necessary—though profoundly regrettable—to inform you of the unanimous decision to revoke your membership at Community Bible Church. This decision is not one of judgment, but one of pastoral concern for the church. As Christ-following leaders, we will not share information about this outside of our leadership team and will not gossip or slander your family in any way – we wish you the best. However, as you have alluded to in your messages, if you decide to attempt to further divide or cause harm to our church family, we will be left no choice but to carry out the next level of church discipline as outlined in Matthew 18:17.

In the spirit of Paul's appeals for peace and fellowship, we urge you to seek a new church community—one that aligns more closely with your beliefs and where you can freely grow in faith and fellowship. We believe this is essential for your spiritual well-being and that of your family, fostering an environment of harmony and spiritual nourishment.

In the spirit of Paul's appeals for peace and fellowship, we particularly recall his plea to Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4:2-3, urging them to "be of the same mind in the Lord." Just as these two leaders in the Philippian church were encouraged to reconcile their differences for the sake of the Gospel, we extend a heartfelt plea to you to seek reconciliation. Although repentance has not yet been part of this journey, our hearts remain open to the possibility of forgiveness and healing.

This letter is sent with a profound hope that you will find a new spiritual home where you can thrive and contribute positively, and where the love and grace of Christ guide every interaction. We pray earnestly for your journey ahead, that it may lead to renewed faith and deeper connections within the family of God.

With deepest regret for the necessity of this message and with fervent prayers for your future.

Respectfully,

The Elders at Community Bible Church

*We are also mailing a physical copy of this letter to you.