

TO: The Believers Meeting with the Church in Toronto, Toronto, ON, CANADA

FROM: The Elders of the Church in Toronto & the Directors of the Church of the Torontonians

RE: Continuing Threats against the Church in Toronto

DATE: Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Who We Are as a Church

It is a fundamental tenet of our faith and stand that we, as the Church in Toronto, are administered locally, answerable to the Lord. In our prayers we ask the Lord to be with us and guide us so that we may make proper decisions for the furtherance of His testimony here in Toronto.

Today, we write to you because once again those foundations have come under attack.

Preserving Our Stand as a Genuine Local Church

As you are aware, earlier this year our stand as a genuine local Church, administered locally, was subject to challenge by some individuals who, although gathering with us, were seeking to unify our Church as the Lord's testimony here with a "world-wide Church" (in the name of 'the Body') inspired by the global leadership of LSM's "blended brothers" based in Anaheim, California.

Ultimately, these individuals, led by Brothers Ron MacVicar and David Wang, and bolstered by other supporters who would not put their names on the court documents, commenced legal action against our Church to prevent us from adding new members and from adopting new by-laws aimed at enhancing our Church testimony. This court action was thankfully dismissed, with the court ordering costs being paid to us.

At the March 4, 2007 annual Business Meeting of the Church of the Torontonians the members of the Church Corporation endorsed the views put forward by the elders and the Board of the Church, thereby increasing our membership and providing a voice to those who qualified to be members and providing a strong endorsement to continue the local administration of the Church in Toronto (as we have done these many years) as a genuine local church, a lampstand standing before the Lord, in fellowship with other genuine local churches (Rev. 2-3).

Declaration of Independence by Dissenters

A number of former members of our Church, influenced by the LSM-group, have ceased to serve and support the Church or gather with us, preferring to form their own "Church."

After the business meeting, those who expressed opposing views had the opportunity to accept the decisions of the membership, join with us in harmony with all the saints and go forward together as the Church. Regrettably they chose rather to issue their own self-styled "Declaration & Clarification". They make it clear in this April 1, 2007 document (issued with a supporting letter by Ron MacVicar and David Wang) why they must "**...Separate and Disassociate Ourselves from....the Church in Toronto.**" (Emphasis added)

This declaration goes on to deny that our Church, the Church in Toronto is a genuine local church, calling it a "divisive local sect". These and other hurtful accusations exhibit an open contempt for the efforts made by

many brothers and sisters to further our testimony as the Church in Toronto to fulfill the Lord's purpose here in Toronto.

Since that time, members of this disaffected group, which we believe is fully supported by the "blended brothers" associated with LSM, have been meeting together apart from the Church in Toronto. Brothers MacVicar & Wang have also established a business entity for the creation of their own "Church" separate and apart from us, which they called "THE LOCAL CHURCH IN TORONTO" [Business ID #170392229].

The Continued Attack

Having started their own "church," it appears that those now meeting apart from us wish to recruit our members and ultimately gain the assets of our Church. Rather than accept our determinations at the business meeting and the endorsement given to us by the Court to function as a genuine local church, those now apart from us in spirit and presence continue to seek to interfere with us in order to undermine the leadership of our Church.

A related party of LSM-group members sought access to the church's financial records for inspection prior to the business meeting. The Church's financial accounts were opened for inspection on March 10, just after the business meeting. Questions were raised by members of this group at the business meeting. Their queries were answered by the directors at that time and also in-depth at subsequent Church gatherings (e.g. Tuesday, March 6).

Despite these extraordinary efforts by the Church to satisfy this dissenting party of LSM-group members that there was no merit to any complaint or allegation relating to the operations of our Church, the Church directors recently received a subsequent request from a party composed of Ron MacVicar, Mark Chiang, Soan-Lin Liu & Bridget Weber to conduct an intrusive & exhaustive investigation into the Church's financial records.

The May 10 Demand

This dissenting group has expressed the desire to "fully review all of the corporate records" of our Church. The letter from them dated May 10, 2007 contains over 14 separate and distinct demands, each with a number of sub-demands including wishing to examine "the auditor's report for each of the last 10 years."

To adequately address every item they seek would require countless hours of effort and energy on the part of directors, auditors and their helpers. They want to take "over two or three days," with a "total inspection time of between 16 – 24 hours."

The Church in Toronto's eldership has always published financial reports and has had independent auditors involved to ensure that the Church was run properly and in accordance with the standards of wise stewards. What possible proper purpose could be achieved by these individuals in their further enquiry, having already left us and embarked on their own course through their own "Church"?

More Legal Action?

Part of their purpose can be seen from the fact that their letter was also copied to the law firm Gowling, Lafleur & Henderson. This is the same law firm which unsuccessfully represented Brothers MacVicar, Wang *et. al.* in their previous application to the Ontario Superior Court. Hence the current action of this party of LSM-supporters, acting in concert with the same law firm, could only be taken as a threat of further potential legal action against the Church in what appears to be the start of further harassment to the good-faith efforts of Church leadership to maintain the proper operation of the Church in Toronto. Rather than gathering with us and

moving forward to do the Lord's work together, these individuals seem prepared to ignore the biblical admonition against taking fellow-believers to court (1 Cor. 6) because they cannot win in hearts and minds of those who are standing with the Church in Toronto rather than with their newly constituted "LSM-Church."

What the Dissenters Really Want

The request which the Church directors have received should be viewed in the light of these recent events and the actions of those who oppose us so vehemently that they have taken the Church to court and have now formed their own "church." They do not desire to practice oneness, harmony or any positive purpose. Rather they seek to cause dissention among us and to recruit our members to their cause. These people are requesting virtually unrestricted access to the Church's business records to cause us continued expense in time and money in responding to them. Having departed, one might ask what further interest do they have in the business affairs of the Church? What benefit do they wish to bestow upon us, whom they view as deviated from what they consider the right path—following the global leadership of LSM's "blended brothers" in one world-wide "Church"?

The actions of this party composed of Ron MacVicar, Mark Chiang, Soan-Lin Liu & Bridget Weber are not to accomplish any proper purpose. They are in fact allied with (if not members of) Toronto's LSM-group which has denounced us and set up their own "Church" with the assistance of LSM's "blended brothers" from the United States. They are not content to practice according to their beliefs and follow their self-chosen leadership. Rather, they wish to further harass and inconvenience the Church in Toronto as part of a strategy of promoting themselves. Their legitimacy as a church should be focused on their own efforts to witness and worship, not in the promotion of controversy among the membership of the Church in Toronto.

The Same Story All Over Again

This type of action by an LSM-inspired group is not without precedent. The LSM-group in Columbus, OH demanded access to the Church in Columbus's financial records. An array of 80+ unproven accusations of alleged "financial misdeeds" was formulated and published on the Internet. Already, here in Toronto, malicious accusations and anonymous slanders related to financial "mismanagement" by the Church in Toronto's directors and officers have appeared on the Internet. Our view is that the motivation behind this group is not a positive one, but rather a simple "fishing expedition" to manufacture controversy and further fuel unfounded malicious attacks against the Church.

Given the current standing of the parties requesting access to the Church financial records, the elders regard this as an illegitimate attempt to harass and inconvenience the Church. Consequently the directors, through their legal counsel, have informed those seeking this information and their legal counsel that their request has been denied (see the attached document).

Moreover, should this group initiate further legal action against the Church we are quite prepared to take defensive action in accordance with our duties as elders and directors to protect the best interests of our Church. We intend to meet any further court action with counter-motions to have them declared vexatious litigants. Moreover, this pattern of outrageous behaviour --repeatedly launching frivolous law suits-- wastes the saints' time and money (which was offered to the Lord for His purposes.)

We ask the faithful saints to continue standing together with the Lord, with the Church and with the Church eldership as we pass through these trying circumstances. We also ask that you pray for those who departed and are no longer united with us. Please continue to pray for our Church and all those everywhere who carry forth Christ's promise of redemption and salvation to fulfill God's eternal purpose.

Signed by the Elders & Directors of the Church in Toronto

Steve Pritchard, Jonathan P'ng, David Lio, Robin Lao, Soon-Ong Seo,

Bob Duncan, Nigel Tomes

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Letter from Mark Chiang, Soan-Lin Liu, Bridget Weber & Ron MacVicar (dated May 10, 2007)
- (2) Letter from Mark Frederick (Miller Thompson LLP) to David Tang (Gowling, Lafleur & Henderson LLP) dated May 14, 2007