



### ***But After Further Review...A Pastoral Response***

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In sports a questionable call by a referee must be viewed by camera replay and the ruling can only be challenged by the results...after further review. The letter generated and placed on our website by select people in this administration was designed to deprive an Ordained Elder of his constitutional rights to a fair hearing for what was alleged to be inappropriate behavior directed toward leadership. However, after further review, the letter seeks to circumvent Scripture and by tone and spirit is a gross violation of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ. The letter appears vindictive in tone and places this Elder in the role of chief offender. It seeks to recruit supporters that resemble a lynch mob and not a body of believers. If the church is a regime, this approach is in place. But after further review... I am compelled by conscience to seek the biblical approach that squares with what we believe historically.

From earliest times in the Church of God in Christ, Scripture has been our rule for faith and practice. Controversy is not new to our church. Bishop Mason was sued and called names. Controversy comes with the challenges of being a leader. However, as a leader we must never flagrantly demonstrate our anger through public action. We must not allow those who love us to break the rules by emotional reactions in order to support our position. Justice, love and reason must be the guiding norm for whatever response we make as leaders in a crisis. After further review...we have not followed Scripture to resolve the present conflict. In Matthew 18: 15ff. (MLV) Jesus admonishes, *"If your brother should do wrong against you, go and show him his fault privately; in case he does not listen, take one or two along, so that from the testimony of two or three witnesses the whole dispute may be settled."*

The Pastors and Elders Council, has the responsibility to invoke the Constitution when the rights of a pastor or Elder are violated. Neither approach has been utilized in the case of this Ordained Elder. It is morally and ethically wrong to pressure anyone either directly or indirectly to sign a letter against their will. An injustice to anyone jeopardizes and threatens the freedom of all of us. We must not yield to tyranny. I took a vow as a General





Board Member to uphold the doctrine and ordinances of the Church of God in Christ. Let us seek those things that make for peace and unity in the Body of Christ. Repentance, prayer and fasting must be the key to uniting a divided people. After further review... I am bound by those commitments to God, the church and the voting constituency. I can do no other. The prayer of St Francis of Assisi comes to mind.

*“Lord make me an instrument of Your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon, Where there is doubt, faith, Where there is despair, hope, Where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy...To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive-- It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”*

*“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

**(2 Chronicles 7:14, NKJV)**