

Forward Together: Update on RLC Leadership and Ongoing Court Case

Dear Resurrection Family,

Some of you may have received an email from Lisa Brendle today that contained misleading and inaccurate information. This week, the Synod Council issued a decision in the C15.11 action, suggested by the bishop, then initiated at the request of both Lisa and Randy. However, this matter is not yet final. Before this action, Lisa, purporting to be the President of the Council but acting with no authorization from the RLC Council or the Congregation, filed a court case to determine the legitimate council officers of RLC. That legal process was already underway before the C15.11 action and will ultimately be decided by the court. This is the result of Lisa's actions.

I am saddened that this has led to an adversarial court case, but that is the nature of lawsuits. The process will involve discovery, including documents from RLC, the Synod, and other relevant parties, as well as depositions from RLC Council members, congregation members, bishops, and others. I am confident that the discovery process will demonstrate that the RLC constitution was violated, that I remain the president, the corrected officers of the RLC Council are valid, and that Pastor Perkins remains our pastor.

The Council has been meeting regularly, with proper notice, agendas, and minutes provided to all members, and with quorums present. The Council has expressed its disappointment with those who have refused to cooperate. We are also concerned that Lisa and Kristin removed over \$200,000 from a church account without providing any accounting for it. Additionally, there has been no financial reporting from Kristin since April, though she continues to receive and disperse church funds.

The Council has discussed the ongoing bullying and harassment experienced by some at RLC. The RLC Code of Conduct stipulates that such actions cannot be tolerated. As President of RLC (as determined by a majority vote), I assure you that we will continue to operate with openness and transparency. Every member is welcome to attend council meetings. Diverse perspectives will be respected, and decisions will be made fairly and explained fully. This is what I owe you as your President.

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Much truth has been hidden from this congregation, including details about the congregation's finances and secret meetings held by the dissenters. Because they are acting in secret, we must rely on the court process to bring their actions to light. I believe the

discovery process will reveal their violations of the church's rules. It will also reveal that the Synod based decisions on limited input without providing factual evidence to justify its opinion—just circular repetitions of unfounded and false allegations (gossip).

At some point, this matter must be resolved, and we will need to find a path toward reconciliation. In the meantime, Pastor Karen will lead worship tomorrow, as scheduled.

The Gospel calls us to be accountable, especially when acting in God's name. I, along with the majority of Council members and Pastor Perkins, take this responsibility seriously. I ask for your patience and prayers during this challenging time. Let us pray that this dispute may be resolved in a way that glorifies God and reflects the love that Jesus taught us: "By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Peace and Blessings,
Karen Lawfer, President