



Resurrection Lutheran Church
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rlcjuneau.org | juneaulive.org | showrunnercamp.org | rlcnorishes.org | [Zoom](#)
[Juneau Live! Studio on YouTube](#)

January 25, 2025

Sent by email.

Regarding: The Need for Hope in the Ongoing Strife at Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC)

Fellow members in Christ of RLC:

One definition of Epiphany in the Cambridge English Dictionary is:

“A moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of, something that is very important to you.”

Maybe, this is that moment in time at RLC...

Surely you thought we were done with all the unrest. We wish we were, too. But ignoring bullying has emboldened increasingly destructive behavior – especially with the bishops’ participation and support. The RLC Council finds RLC at a harrowing moment for the church. Bishop Wickstrom, in June 2024, orchestrated an unconstitutional coup to terminate our pastor’s call (as she has done elsewhere in the synod). Since then, Bishop Oslovich, has been convinced to allow this vindictive campaign against RLC to continue. We are all are stunned to witness some of the behavior we regularly encounter at the church from the small group emboldened by the bishop’s (possibly misguided) support.

But enough is enough! It is about to culminate with a “staged annual meeting” this Sunday, January 26, 2025. There is a long list of reasons this meeting does not meet constitutional requirements. Being wrong, though, just adds it to every other “glossed over” step that has increased confusion and deterioration in the congregation. “President” Brendle announced this suspiciously rushed meeting within days, of the Alaska Superior Court Judge indicating his intention retain jurisdiction to decide who the officers of RLC are, in a case filed (without Council or Congregation approval), by Ms. Brendle.

Additionally, the RLC Council is filing with the court a motion regarding their “staged annual meeting” on January 26, 2025, which the council considered unconstitutional, invalid and did not attend. As the Plaintiffs rushed this meeting after the conference with the judge, the council is asking the court for an expedited hearing in the coming weeks to nullify the illegitimate actions taken at their “staged annual meeting.” The RLC Council was forced to postpone the annual meeting scheduled for February 9, 2025, until the requirements of bylaw C10.01.01.b could be met, at least until the court rules on its jurisdictional motion, and if it accepts jurisdiction, then until it renders a decision. We must have the required information to allow deliberation, decision making, and planning as a congregation.

How can we get your immediate attention as a congregation member? There has been a lot of misinformation spread by those holding this meeting and the bishops’, so we have spent a great deal of time and effort to break out the issues and explanations in separate “positions statements:”

- If you are most motivated by our call to work for justice with humility and integrity, the position statement [Challenge to Act Justly, Seek Truth and Fulfill Fiduciary Duty](#) may speak to you.
- If your highest priority is commitment to the covenants of baptism, ordination and election to other offices, position statement [Authoritarianism, Secrecy and Complicity](#) is where you may want to start.
- If you are most concerned about the “financial crisis” you keep hearing about and believe we can’t afford to focus on mission right now, or if you want to know what is happening with the congregation’s money and why the budget you passed is neither followed nor reported, see the addendum *Money Over Mission* to the position statement [Authoritarianism, Secrecy and Complicity](#).
- If you care about the constitutional norms, we agree to share in the ELCA, or if you want this to go away, you would have to go back in time and prevent Bishop Wickstrom from violating our constitutions, allowing personal connections to substitute for complete and accurate information, and involving more people in the wrongs with subsequent smokescreens, please look at position statement [Understanding Constitutional Violations](#).
- If you want to know why we are bothering you, please look at the daily reality at our church and its mission and programs that affect the most vulnerable people in Juneau, or if you care about legal exposure, and the associated costly risks to the image of RLC, please start with position statement [What Happens Next and Your Involvement](#).

Here is our view of conflict at RLC:

*A small group of detractors at RLC, who sat on council resorted to bullying tactics to install themselves as council officers. Although they were later removed from office, Bishop Wickstrom, acting without constitutional authority, reappointed the ousted president to facilitate an unconstitutional congregational vote (with less than an announced 2/3 vote threshold) aimed at ending Pastor Perkins’ call and prematurely halting the congregation’s discernment process. While Bishop Wickstrom retired weeks later, the RLC Council rejected the unlawful attempt to remove Pastor Karen. This apparently prompted Bishop Oslovich to continue pursuing the pastor’s removal (possibly allowing Bishop Wickstrom to covertly participate) through a distorted *C15.11 / †S17.11 adjudication process. This culminated in the wrongful removal of Pastor Karen from the roster, the awkward appointment of a part-time interim pastor, and the continued staging of undocumented, non-transparent, and exclusive events at RLC. These include an unconstitutional and hastily called annual meeting designed to install a new council loyal to the detractors, undermining constitutional governance, rejecting congregational unity, and perpetuating injustice.*

However, just to be clear, I, as President, and the majority of the council have continued to hold all regularly scheduled meetings, shared all agendas reports and minutes with the entire council, and provided simple and consistent access to all council members and congregants. Any decisions about restricted access to space, finances or tools at RLC have been in direct response to unacceptable, destructive behavior, in an attempt to prevent further damage to the congregation and its ministry.

All actions have been addressed, at least, in council reports and often documented elsewhere. President Lawfer, and the rest of council have not refused to collaborate or work with anyone who maintains a reasonably polite, rational and respectful demeanor. The council is making every effort to be one church, despite some wildly divergent perspectives. Premature votes divide.

Unilateral decisions divide. Making up expedient, but poorly considered and unkind operations divide. We have to be able to discuss options, compromise, and finish discerning together if RLC is going to be whole.

Sincerely, with peace and justice,



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cc: RLC Council, *sent by email*
The authors and recipients of this letter may share it (and its attached position statements and addendums) with other individuals and groups who may also find the information relevant.

Addendums

[Helpful Summaries to the RLC Council Position Statements](#)
[Index to RLC Council Position Statements and Addendums](#)

Links to RLC Council Position Statements

[Understanding Constitutional Violations](#)
[Authoritarianism, Secrecy and Complicity](#)
[Challenge to Act Justly, Seek Truth and Fulfill Fiduciary Duty](#)
[What Happens Next and Your Involvement](#)