



February 15, 2025

Regarding: Update on Controversy at Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC) in Juneau, Alaska

I am Karen Lawfer, the duly elected President of Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC). The RLC Congregation Council recognizes that vendors, contractors, community partners, social service agencies, government entities, arts organizations, and those who rely on RLC's facilities for meetings, rehearsals, broadcasts, education, and youth outreach may have questions or have been misled by individuals falsely claiming to act with authority regard RLC.

### **Background of the Conflict**

In 2024, a small group of detractors at RLC, having failed to secure a legitimate majority on the council, resorted to bullying tactics to install themselves as the council officers. Although they were later lawfully removed from office, then-Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, acting without such authority, reappointed the ousted president to facilitate an unconstitutional congregational vote—using an improperly announced 51% threshold instead of the required two-thirds majority—to terminate Pastor Karen Perkins' call. This occurred just weeks before Bishop Wickstrom's retirement.

The RLC Council rejected this unlawful attempt to remove Pastor Perkins. However, newly installed Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich has shielded efforts to remove Pastor Perkins and, possibly in covert coordination with Bishop Wickstrom, has attempted to retroactively justify these unconstitutional actions through a distorted adjudication process that obscured the violations and substituted judgement inconsistent with our denomination. This process was weaponized to illegitimately validate the unconstitutional acts of Bishop Wickstrom, ultimately leading to:

- the removal of Pastor Perkins from the (ordained) roster – forcing her to decide between church bureaucracy and legal, ethical concerns;
- the confusing (and unconstitutional) appointment of a part-time interim pastor for RLC;
- the continuation of undocumented, non-transparent, and exclusionary “meetings” at RLC;
- an unconstitutional and hastily called 2025 “annual meeting,” orchestrated to install a new council loyal to the detractors and to pass a 2025 budget (without accounting for 2024); and
- emboldened aggressive, destructive actions perpetuated through bullying, bluffing and relentlessness, but with no legitimate authority.

### **The True Governance of RLC**

While this group of detractors claims authority, I, as President, along with the majority of the legitimate RLC Council (supported by the majority of the congregation), have continued to:

- hold all regularly scheduled council meetings with full transparency;
- share all agendas, reports, and minutes with the entire council; and
- ensure equal and open access to all council members and congregation members.

## Guidance for Those Contacted by the Detractors

If you have been approached or contacted by this group, I encourage you to reach out to me or another legitimate officer of the RLC Council (contact information below) for clarification. For facility maintenance, usage and scheduling on the RLC calendar, please continue to work with Brad Perkins ([producer@juneaulive.org](mailto:producer@juneaulive.org) and 808-782-5795).

To help interested parties understand the full scope of this conflict, the RLC Council has adopted a series of detailed position statements. These statements are described and summarized in these two addendums (click on the links to download):

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

These position statements, originally prepared for internal denomination groups, provide a comprehensive explanation of the constitutional violations, governance issues, and ongoing legal matters affecting RLC (click on the links to download):

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

If you have **any questions or concerns**, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely, with peace and justice,



Karen Lawfer, President  
Resurrection Lutheran Church  
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Bradley Perkins, [producer@producerlive.org](mailto:producer@producerlive.org), (808) 782-5795, RLC Programs, Grants, Food Safety and Facility Manager, Producer and Director of [Juneau Live! Studio](#) and [TV Production Programs](#), Counsel to RLC Council and President (admitted in California and Hawaii, but not Alaska) and Alaska Synod Council Member

Links to Addendums

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