



Resurrection Lutheran Church
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RLC (formerly Pastor) Karen Perkins

RLC Council and Congregation Member Statement in the Conflict with the Alaska Synod Bishops of the Congregation Council of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Juneau, Alaska

Use Your Voice or They Will Use Your Silence

Boo to Injustice in the Church

In the middle of the movie *The Princess Bride*, Prince Humperdinck announces their marriage and presents Princess Buttercup as the new queen. As the people bow in reverent acknowledgement, an old hag stands up and shouts: “Boo! Boo! Boo!” Buttercup asks, “Why do you do this?” And the woman answers: “Because you had love in your hands, and you gave it up.”

But Buttercup wakes up – realizing it was only a nightmare! Then she gets a 2nd half of a movie for the true love to triumph.

The situation at Resurrection Lutheran Church has felt like a nightmare – bizarre, unprecedented, and heartbreaking. I pray that we, too, can wake up – but first, we must name the evil we have witnessed:

Boo to the Previous Bishop

- Boo to a bishop who ignored documented bullying and harassment for over a year, despite being shown videos, written reports, and desperate pleas for intervention.
- Boo to a bishop who flouted constitutional processes, illegitimately declaring her preferred officers in order to implement her preferred agenda.
- Boo to a bishop who eventually lied about the nature of her “listening team,” pretending it was a formal Consultation Committee after emphasizing it was not.
- Boo to a bishop who forced a “vote” with a 51% threshold – violating constitutional requirements – to end a pastor’s call without cause.
- Boo to a bishop who chose political convenience and loyalty to cronies over the Gospel and over pastoral care.

Boo to the Synod Executive Committee

- Boo to a Synod Executive Committee who, when complaints were made about the bishop, allowed her to be involved, if not handle them – against their own policies (Alaska Synod Constitution ¶S17.02).
- Boo to those who failed in their duty to protect members of the Church when the bishop herself became the source of harm.

Boo to the New Bishop

- Boo to a bishop who promised to "listen" but uncritically adopted the previous bishop's narrative without investigation.
- Boo to a bishop who dedicates almost 1/5 of his annual report to perpetuating these myths.
- Boo to a bishop who treated bullying, harassment, and community sabotage as mere parliamentary squabbles.
- Boo to a bishop who continues to gloss over missing or unreported funds and unconstitutional actions, portraying it all as "administrative disagreements."
- Boo to a bishop who forced me to decide between my rostered status and a commitment to justice and integrity.

Boo to the Synod Vice President and Synod Council

- Boo to a Synod Vice President who restricted and distorted information to present a deceptive case to the Synod Council as part of a flawed *C15.11 / †S17.11 adjudication process.
- Boo to a Synod Council who accepted incomplete, misleading information without asking necessary questions.
- Boo to a Synod Council who, even if sensing deeper conflict, chose to vote anyway – prioritizing procedural closure or reputations over truth and justice.

Boo to Those Undermining RLC's Ministries

- Boo to those who took over \$200,000 from RLC's accounts, withheld financial transparency, and sabotaged life-saving ministries.
- Boo to those who blocked external accounting reforms that would have brought honesty and healing.
- Boo to the person who leveraged political connections to kill a city contract and grant-funded programs that served homeless, hungry, and marginalized people.

Boo to Those who Perpetuate Bullying in the Church

- Boo to those who treat bullying victims as "divisive" rather than standing with the abused.
- Boo to those who would rather destroy ministries than allow a faithful congregation to worship together in peace.

Boo to a Church that Forgets its Own Mission

- Boo to a Church that claims to celebrate diversity but drives out Native Alaskan members and new ministries.
- Boo to a Church that claims to stand for truth – and then stands behind lies to protect institutional pride.
- Boo to a Church that claims to welcome innovation – and punishes those who dare to imagine new forms of ministry.

Boo to those Naming Injustice as Loyalty

- Boo to a bishop, a Synod, and a Church who are preparing to crown the previous bishop "Bishop Emerita" – in the midst of unresolved, active harm caused by her actions and a pending legal case.

- Boo to those who would rather protect a system than honor the Gospel incarnate through Jesus Christ.
- Boo to those who abandon the heart of the Church – love, justice, humility – for the sake of preserving appearances.

I want to wake up from this nightmare. I want the Church to wake up.

We just celebrated Holy Week – remembering Christ's betrayal, his unjust death, his victory over the forces of evil. When will we have the courage to acknowledge the betrayals happening right now, in our churches, to our people, by our leaders?

People are being harmed. Congregations are being hollowed out. Ministries are being sabotaged. And for what? To protect the egos of a few? To accommodate those who are accustomed to getting their way? To silence those who dare to stand for justice?

Every time this conflict is dismissed as "just a few who won't accept the decision," it not only ignores the massive constitutional violations – it erases the countless acts of cruelty, theft, deception, and betrayal that faithful members have endured, and continue to experience. It is relentless.

We have been treated as though we are no longer members of the Church. We have been excluded from the sacraments. We have been asked to abandon our vows of baptism, our vows of ordination, our calling as beloved children of God.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of my ordination – but I am not listed in the Synod's recognitions. Because I chose conscience over compliance. Because I chose justice over silence. Because I chose love over loyalty to a broken system.

The Synod, too, must choose. Because the cost of this injustice will not be borne by Resurrection Lutheran Church alone. The Alaska Synod – and those complicit in enabling this injustice – will bear responsibility as well.

I ask you to care. Not just because it could happen to your church next – but because this is not what Christ taught. Because we know what love looks like. And because we deserve – and are called – to expect nothing less than love, truth, and justice in Christ's Church.

Prepared on information and belief, subject to reasonable amendment.

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](#)

[Synod Assembly 2025 Resolutions and Reports](#)

Visit [RLC Council Position Statements](#)

