



MOUNT PLEASANT
BAPTIST CHURCH

God's World, Our Mission Field

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
Church Membership

March 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Trustee Injunction Information Update-Our Responsibility

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am Micheal Davis, a member of your Trustee Ministry for Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. The Trustees are elected under the Church Bylaws and empowered by those Bylaws to be custodians of all Church property, including the funds that you faithfully submit to support the Church's message and daily operations.

The Church membership in partnership prepares and through the democratic process votes on and approves the annual budget. With the help of Church leadership and staff, we, Trustees, adopt the annual budget to make sure that the Church stays within its resources. Our most important role as Trustees is to make sure that the Budget is faithfully and diligently followed. In that respect, we work with the Director of Administration, Reverend Pinkney, who controls access to the Church's bank account.

As you may be aware, the Trustees filed suit in December 2023 against our Pastor, Reverend Donalson, based upon his refusal to follow the annual Budget. This lawsuit only occurred after repeated attempts to settle this dispute within our church family did not succeed. Quite simply, the pastor did not recognize the limitations put on him by the Bylaws – instead, he saw the Church as being subject to his personal control in financial matters. That is not the case.

On January 31, 2024, Fairfax County Circuit Court judge Richard Gardiner granted the Trustees' request for an injunction which prohibits Rev. Donalson from spending Church funds outside the approved budget. In making his ruling, Judge Gardiner cautioned the Pastor about seeking retroactive congregational approval for his personal spending decisions -- as opposed to following an organized budget, as the Trustees have done (The transcript from the January 31 hearing is posted on the Trustee's website).

We are seeking a Christian resolution for the case. This means no further litigation. Instead, we need the pastor to admit these errors and pledge to follow the Bylaws. (We also need to update the Bylaws to give a more precise chain of command for Church spending and personnel decisions).

This is a historically congregation-driven Church. The head of the Church is Jesus Christ. Until He comes back to personally lead the Church, it is imperative that our leadership follows the Bylaws and the rule of law.

That is our humble prayer.

MPBC Trustee Ministry

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