

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 2006**

**Attendees:**

Glenn T. Dryden, Senior Pastor  
Gary D. William, Associate Pastor and Trustee  
Joel D. Noble, Chairman of the Board  
John H. Bailey, Trustee  
Ann C. Webb, Trustee

**Not In Attendance:**

Chrystal L. Jones, Trustee

**Special Guest:**

Robert E. Worst,  
Attorney at Law - KalbaughPfund & Messersmith

Pastor Gary Williams began the meeting in prayer.

**Purpose of Meeting:**

To discuss circumstances surrounding former Pastor Tommy Shelton.

**Considerations of the Church**

- Joel Noble explained to Robert Worst the history of our concerns regarding allegation of sexual misconduct former Pastor Tommy Shelton.
- Robert Worst began by explaining that there are two considerations with this situation, the Church family and the Legal aspect.
  - From the Church family side there is the emotional part based on the current allegations and on what level of Legal action will affect the Church family.
  - From the Legal side he discussed the following:
    - Statutory limitation 63.1-248.3 states that the alleged sexual misconduct with the minor (at that time 16) should have been reported at the time the incident occurred.
    - Virginia does not require reporting of such incidents at a later date.
    - Fairfax County does require reporting of the alleged incident now, even if several years have passed and the victim is no longer a minor. The report would be made to the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Fairfax County Department of Social Services hotline.
    - Robert Worst does not feel that the Church needs to report the alleged incident since the statute does not apply to our circumstances.
    - Virginia has a ruling that the victim has up to age 18 plus 1 year to file a claim. At 25 it is unlikely that a claim could be made, unless controlling torte.

- In a Civil claim the church has a liability to monetary damages. Also, Civil claims do have a statute of limitations.
- In Virginia helping to pay for counseling for the victim because the victim's funds have been depleted does not admit fault/liability.
- The church could face legal action if the determination is made that the previous alleged sexual abuse history of Tommy Shelton was known before he was hired as Senior Pastor.
- Under Charitable Immunity, if the church was not aware of this previous history at the time of Tommy Shelton's employment and a thorough investigation of his past was done prior to his employment, then, the church could be immune from any legal action. Only Tommy Shelton would be legally liable for damages to the victims.
- Shelton family threat of lawsuit against the church because of Glenn Dryden's comments surrounding the alleged accusations which have been posted on the internet. If Glenn Dryden has the role of full-time Pastor and church leader, then there can be no separation from the church and the church will be held liable.



#### **What To Tell The Congregation**

- Robert Worst suggests saying the following when communicating to the church-
  - State no assumptions, only the facts.
  - Allegations have been made but do not give details on the allegations.
  - The Board is announcing to the congregation because of concern about these allegations.
  - If a member of the congregation is aware of any information regarding these allegations the Board asks that this knowledge be communicated to the Board.
- After discussion with Robert Worst the following is to take place-
  - An announcement will be made to the congregation at a special business meeting to be held at 6:00PM on Sunday December 17, 2006.
  - The announcement will be a written factual statement. Joel Noble will write this statement and provide a copy of it to Robert Worst for his review by Friday December 15, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Noble", written over a horizontal line.

Joel D. Noble,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees – 2006

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John W. Thompson  
Secretary – 2006