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**SENT VIA E-MAIL  
& FIRST CLASS MAIL**

February 4, 2008

Dear Pastor Jamie, Pastor Mark, and Elders of Mars Hill Church:

I am very saddened by your responses to my good faith effort to reach a godly resolution of this painful conflict. I was prepared to mediate a gracious resolution with you. One that would demonstrate God's grace and redemption before the church bringing healing to many wounded people and renewed enthusiasm and trust. But still you maintain a self-righteous position even though by now you have been petitioned and questioned by many people. If you are not willing to acknowledge your sin, or admit to any wrongdoing, then we have nothing to talk about, meet about, or mediate. Without any repentance, mediation would dishonor God and cheapen His grace.

Where are your hearts, men? Egregious conduct has occurred in your midst, by your consent, by your actions and inaction. And, you do not burn with conviction? You have grievously sinned against me and my family. You have sinned against Bent Meyer. You have sinned against the church. Where is your repentance?

Over these past four months, Bent and I have borne the injuries to us with great patience. Up until now, we have withheld the facts from public view in order to protect you and give you time and opportunity to consider the gravity of your offenses. In love, Bent and I have labored to hold you accountable, calling you to repentance. And still, you resist. You continue to bring harm to me and my family. This is tragic.

Unfortunately, as typical, your responses to me, Jamie, contain half-truths and misleading statements that need correction.

In your statement regarding the First Amendment, you are mistaken to suggest it gives you the right to injure a person and that you are protected from liability for the damage. You are on very shaky ground in your defense of the reprehensible conduct that has taken place.

You have taken a step, in that you removed the defamatory posts of 12/5/07. I anticipate a retraction and correction, not only of those posts, but also of the many false, defamatory statements that were published in the 142-page document in response to the "Ask Your Elders Anything" thread.

It would be unwise to remain entrenched in your convictions that you have neither said nor written anything that needs correction, nor behaved in any manner unfitting of an elder. That would be a bald-faced continuation of wrongdoing that dishonors God and places you and the church in harm's way from consequences that proceed when we do not self-correct. I pray your adjustment comes soon.

Regarding church authority and discipline: I was not a member or "voluntarily submitted" at the time you published your 142-page document, or when the December 5 updates were posted or when my so-called "discipline" was imposed. Pastor Zack Hubert sent me an email on October 16, 2007 after my trial, restoring me to full member status. Jonna and I withdrew as members on November 2, 2007. No prior notice or any notice was ever given that I was "under discipline" and no charges were ever relayed. Mark, you received my notice of member resignation by email and responded very quickly in a cordial business-like manner with no mention of "discipline." Jamie, you also responded to my resignation with no mention of "discipline." Even the process you have taken in my case condemns you.

The "discipline" you have imposed - lying about my alleged "unrepentance" and requiring the family of God, that I love and have labored over, to shun me - has been lawless, unbiblical, and extremely cruel, especially to my wife and children. This is exactly why a righteous, godly appeals process needs to be in the by-laws. Members need to be protected from this kind of abusive authority. My argument, for the need for clear due process language in the new bylaws, could not be more convincing, as this example of great wrongdoing is ironically played out on me.

Regarding reconciliation efforts: No one from the so-called "reconciliation team" has attempted any contact with me other than Brad House. We last spoke on December 19, 2007, when Brad refused to meet with me one-on-one, as he initially offered and which I accepted. In each "effort" the underlying premise has been that I am wrong and the elders have been right. No one else has called, emailed, or stopped by my home, or made any other effort to reconcile or care for my family other than one email from James Harleman, who I then called, left a message, and received no response. I would hardly call these actions a sincere effort at reconciliation or an honest attempt to investigate my grievances. Your pronouncements that you have labored to love and restore me, ring hollow. Again, re-read Bent's letter (attached). It confirms why I have been reluctant to meet with you. You have proven yourselves untrustworthy.

Regarding Pastor Wayne Taylor: Pastor Wayne contacted you (Mark), initially on December 23, when he became aware of the shunning document, to ask you to remove it - as he saw it as unjust, misguided biblically, and extremely hurtful to my family. He believes, as he has told you, that he doesn't think I am "unrepentant", but a Christian brother who has disagreed with you and left the church. He also stated that your public statement "shunning" me makes the Mars Hill leadership "look bad", as well as being a

poor reflection on the Body of Christ in Seattle. You then asked Pastor Wayne if he would consider serving as a mediator in order to de-escalate the growing controversy. You (Jamie) later called Pastor Wayne to see if he would do this, and he consented, but also he stated again that the "shunning update" should be taken down. A few times Pastor Wayne told you that unilaterally removing the "shunning" post would be the right thing to do.

Pastor Wayne did not say I was unwilling to meet with you. He said I have no incentive to meet with you as long as the updates remain posted. Pastor Wayne contacted you (Mark) on January 29, withdrawing from his task of trying to mediate because up until then there had been no progress in getting the shunning update removed, and he felt the task of mediation had gone beyond his ability to facilitate in a pastoral way. Pastor Wayne also contacted me to tell me of his withdrawal. Pastor Wayne first initiated contact with you in good faith. Your version of the facts is very different from his.

You closed your 1/29/2008 letter with, "While we disagree about a lot of things, we share your *desire to resolve this dispute as brothers in Christ in a manner that does not dishonor our God.*" These are my words, written in great anguish, late that night of September 30, just after Pastor Bent and I were fired and threatened. If only you had heeded this plea the night I wrote it. How disingenuous that you now want to "settle this as brothers", quoting me and Scripture in your defense - hoping to avoid responsibility for the harm you have caused - while you have completely violated Scripture when it comes to harming others. I am well aware of 1 Corinthians 6. That is why I cannot walk away.

In conclusion, I am very sorry it has come to this. Mostly I am sad because of what this means to the body of Christ and the dear people of Mars Hill who have been praying and longing for godly resolution to occur. That cannot take place without genuine repentance on your part for the specific harmful actions that were detailed to you in the attached letters from Bent and me. I have repented, verbally and in writing. You are all witnesses to that. The documents are witnesses. For you to continue the lie that I have remained "unrepentant" is gross slander. I was hoping better from all of you.

As I requested in my previous letter, the posts you have taken down should be replaced by a statement of humble repentance that Bent and I approve. Then, we can agree to a third party to walk us through a godly and biblical repentance, reconciliation, restitution, and resolution of this conflict. I remain in prayer for God's wisdom and direction for the days ahead, knowing ultimately, He is Judge between you and me. May God have mercy on us.

And for the record, it is "in the best interests of the church and its labor in the spread of the gospel" that men of integrity own their sin and repent.

~ Paul Petry