

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Pastor Scott Thomas

**To:** [REDACTED]@qwest.net

**Cc:** [Pastor Jamie Munson](#) ; [Pastor Gary Shavey](#) ; [Steve Tompkins](#) ; [Pastor Dave Kraft](#)

**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2007 11:55 AM

**Subject:** Elder Investigation Taskforce

TO: Paul Petry

From: Pastor Scott Thomas (**Lead Mediator** in the case of Paul Petry, a terminated employee of MHC)

RE: Response to reiterated e-mail request (below) to exercise Article III, Section E of the MH Bylaws

Dated: October 1, 2007

CC: Nathaniel L. Taylor, Esq., Pastor Jamie Munson, Pastor Gary Shavey, Pastor Steve Tompkins, Pastor Dave Kraft

Paul,

I received your e-mail sent to all of the elders requesting due process in accordance with Article III, Section E of the current MH Bylaws.

I am leading this taskforce consisting of Pastors Steve Tompkins, Gary Shavey and Dave Kraft. We will seek to state the findings objectively before the arbiters (full council of elders) on October 29, 2007. The full elder's council will judge on whether your eldership is incongruous to the mission and vision of Mars Hill and then vote on your eldership status based on the findings. The task of the investigation team does not concern your employment, but rather your eldership. We have a scheduled meeting today so that we can begin a fair and impartial collection of information followed by interviews with you and the accusers and presentation of the findings to the arbiters for vote.

According the Bylaws, as well as your request for this procedure, we will begin this process today. We will be collecting information from the elders in accordance with the Bylaws (Article III, Sec. E), any wrongdoing evidenced that is a "*credible charge of moral impropriety, doctrinal error or anything that could displease the Lord or harm Mars Hill.*" We have asked for receipt of any offenses experienced or observed with you by October 8, 2007. As uncomfortable as this may seem, it is your request, against the advisement of the Executive Elders.

This process is not a witch-hunt, but rather an exercise in the gospel to identify sin (of any elder, not just the accused), to confess, to repent (not relent or acquiesce) and to bring redemption to individuals and to the MH eldership. We are all in need of pruning by the Vinedresser and the result is more fruit (John 15). For some reason, unknown clearly at this time, we are to undergo a painful pruning of the eldership to achieve more Christ-like fruit in our lives.

I love you as a brother and friend. I will strive to glorify God in the entire process,

Scott

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**From:** [e-request@marshallchurch.org](mailto:e-request@marshallchurch.org) [mailto:[e-request@marshallchurch.org](mailto:e-request@marshallchurch.org)] **On Behalf Of**  
[REDACTED]@qwest.net

**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2007 3:13 AM

**To:** [e@marshallchurch.org](mailto:e@marshallchurch.org)

**Subject:** Please pray

Brothers:

For the purpose of full disclosure, that we may all walk in the light, I share these facts from this past evening: At 5:38 pm on Sunday evening, I received an e-mail from Pastor Jamie notifying me of a mandatory meeting later that evening at 8:15. Present at that meeting were Pastor Mark, Pastor Jamie, Pastor Scott, Pastor Bubba, another pastor that I will not name, and me. To the best of my recollection of what was said, Pastor Jamie started out the meeting by telling me and the other pastor that we were "Terminated. Effective immediately." Pastor Mark spoke after Pastor Jamie. The other elder and I were told that we had two choices: to either resign as elders or face a "full elder investigation" and that the executive elders already had "all the evidence we need." We were not informed of what that evidence is, nor of any sin - other than "disrespect", however, no specific instances were named. No discussion was allowed. The meeting lasted maybe five minutes. Pastor Mark concluded the meeting by stating that "no further discussion was necessary - only repentance." And he left the room.

Our current bylaws provide a process for justly resolving such a situation as this (Article III, Section E). Although, I would far prefer that we could resolve this as brothers who love Jesus, and even when we disagree in robust discussion, at the end of the day we can go home as brothers in Christ who share a common vision and goal and love each other. That is my hope and prayer. My heart is broken by the strife that has come upon us as of late. I harbor no malice towards my brothers. It is my prayer that this will all still be able to work out in a way that glorifies our Lord and spares us all the anguish and dishonor to Him and ourselves. Please pray for me, for my family, for Christ's beloved church, and for this eldership that we will remain a biblical eldership of faithful men that is true to Jesus. We are sinners saved by grace. May we walk in constant repentance and humility. May God's will be done.

In Jesus,

~ Paul