



# Community Chapel & Bible Training Center

18635 8th Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98148  
Pastor Donald Lee Barnett

Phone (206) 431-3100

Sanctuary located at First Avenue South and South 192nd

DEPOSITION  
EXHIBIT

March 4, 1983

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Donald Barnett  
416 S.W. 192nd  
Seattle, WA 98166

Dear Don,

We three Senior Elders, each individually, wish to again express our personal love, our compassion, and deepest concern for you, our brother and friend. We are grief stricken at the personal situation you are in. We are diligently praying for you that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whom we all serve will do a restoring work in you. We want to again assure you that we have no ill will toward you, nor do we have any motive or desire to hurt you. You are beloved of us. We are, so to speak, your children in the faith of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. We love you fervently and will continue to do so.

We are also mindful of our responsibility and stewardship to the Word of God, to you our pastor, and to the flock over which God has ordained us as overseers. We are committed to the fact that the Holy Scriptures are the highest authority which we are responsible to follow. We have searched our hearts and consciences before God and are fully assured we are acting in accordance with our proper stewardship of this holy trust. We can do no less.

We have sought to extend as much love and personal consideration to you as possible in our former letters read before the congregation. In those we intentionally avoided being specific about your misconduct in the hope that you would cooperate with our action and to minimize personal embarrassment for you. Instead, last Sunday you escalated the issue, and you gave specific revelations of your sins yourself, which we had hoped for your sake would not be told publicly.

The special status we placed you on was not intended to be the final judgment of the elders or this board. As of the date of the special status letter, we had much more than sufficient, substantial information, plus your own admissions to us, to take that action. Since that date the eldership has continued in lengthy, very careful, investigative meetings, and extensive further misconduct, present and past, has been substantiated.

Sad to say, your attempted rebuttals last Sunday to the congregation escalated the issue and now puts us in the position of having to reveal more facts to show that you are trying to perpetrate dishonest views of your actions.

The statements you made to the entire eldership, the congregation, and others have positively established that you refuse to abide by the special status imposed upon you February 15 by us for the protection of the flock. On February 16, one day later, you went on vacation with another woman and others in violation of that

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special status and you have continued to violate it in other respects since. You refuse even minimal and appropriate accountability to the government of this church and the Word of God. By your own clear statements you have placed yourself above accountability to anyone for anything. We affirm that this is contrary to Scripture and that it is an exceedingly dangerous precept, both for you and our flock. Before God, we cannot submit to such an unholy, self-serving, and frightening demand. In the full eldership letter of February 24 to you, which was read to the congregation last Friday, we demonstrated by the clear text of many Scriptures that the eldership does have the authority and responsibility to take such action. In your rebuttals to the eldership last Thursday and to the congregation last Sunday, you made virtually no appeal to Scriptures, and instead offered arguments that are dogmatic and self-serving. You did not try to see if our statements were true, you only attempted to justify yourself.

For well over two years now, you have steadfastly rebuffed and refused to cooperate with the many who have sought to work with you to help solve your habitual sexual immorality problems. Your continuing sinful attitude toward this whole issue is, in fact, worse yet than your sexual sins. It is obvious that you have never confessed or repented of your continued self-serving justification, lying, dishonesty, defensiveness, misuse of pastoral authority, making light of sin, and defiance of Holy Scripture. These sins are deep seated, adamant, and continuing. We agree that this is ungodly, anti-scriptural, sinful, and dishonoring to Christ and the Christian testimony of our church.

You have consistently lied in the past and are currently lying about your sexual misconduct to counselors, the entire eldership, and the congregation. You have sworn on oath before God to the entire eldership that you have not committed any sexual immorality in the last six months. You stated the same before the entire congregation last Sunday when this was manifestly false. You recently admitted privately to your failure in the last six months but added that the elders do not know it.

You are currently lying about the number of women you have been involved in immorality with and the extent of it. There are numerous other ongoing lies which we know about, many from your defenses given last Sunday. We believe your word is in no wise to be trusted in respect to your sins.

There have been many repeated and flagrant abuses of pastoral authority. You have coerced women and even threatened to disfellowship unless they lied about your sexual misconduct to counselors, elders, and the courts. For over a year you have used your pulpit to blame and accuse your wife and others.

You have used your position of trust to enact policies which help shield you and prevent the discovery of your habitual sexual problems and you have preached these from the pulpit multiplied times. Further, you have for some time been preaching the defense of these tactics to the congregation. Your eldership, including all the theology teachers, are unanimous in this judgment. You have intertwined these teachings with correct theology and undiscerning people have doubtless accepted the full teaching as Scriptural. But we know that a large portion of the congregation sees this grievous error and are deeply concerned. We, the Senior Elders, are grieved and sorely distressed, as well as all of the eldership, to a man. Further, you have publicly attempted to split the church asking the congregation to take sides against the entire eldership. This is condemned in Scripture.

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Whereas the eldership last Friday evening admonished everyone to stay together, pray, forgive, love, and accept the pastor and all those involved. In addition to the above, the eldership has evidence of much additional sinful conduct which is shocking. We, the Board of Senior Elders, and every member of the entire eldership have the deepest of conviction before God that we cannot allow our pastorship and pulpit to be used this way.

It is our judgment that your habitual sexual misconduct problem is far from solved. It is our further judgment that this, plus all of the above continuing unchristian actions and attitudes, disqualify you for the office of pastor or elder of any church of God according to Scripture. We believe that you are presently a discredit and reproach to us and to the Name of Jesus. As such, we feel compelled to remove you from your position as pastor, Senior Elder, all of your other offices, and as a member of this church. We deeply regret that we did not find out about many of these things sooner. This disfellowship is not contrary to any provision of our Articles of Incorporation or bylaws as currently amended. Previous limitations in the bylaws to your dismissal have been removed by legally adopted amendments as of today.

Effective immediately you are prohibited from entering church property, with the exception of the parsonage. We will enforce this if necessary.

Even though we must take this serious action, we still love you and desire to deal mercifully with you. We greatly appreciate the deep sacrifice you have made for the congregation for many years. We will show you fairness and be benevolent to you with regard to the parsonage, severance pay, and the automobile you use. The Senior Elders in conjunction with the Deacon Board will extend terms to you as soon as possible.

We will provide for you in order to allow time for personal repentance and prayer, personal deliverance, and counseling. It is our prayer that waiting on God with an open heart will result in a deep renewing and healing for you.

We also want you to continue spiritual counseling with David Motherwell. We believe he will be an asset of the Lord for you. After a substantial season, ample and proven witness to your restoration, your full cooperation, and recommendation of your counselors, we may consider your application for reinstatement as a member if you desire at that time. We firmly believe that removing you from your ministry is intended by Scripture and us to be a necessary part of the redemptive work of your spiritual life.

We want you to know that our action is in no way vindictive or arising out of personal hurts. We love you as a person and friend, Don, and Jesus loves you. We want the very best for your soul in eternity. We want what God wants for you. Really, this is mercy and grace for you. We also want to see your marriage restored and this will give an opportunity for that.

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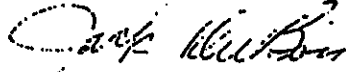
Donald Barnett

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We pray that you will humbly accept this action as a needed restorative and redemptive step and as God's mercy for the sake of your soul. We look to the future for what our great God and Savior is able and sufficient to do.

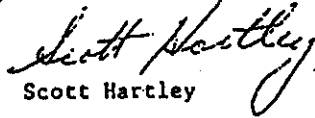
In our Master's service,



Jack DuBois



Jack Hicks



Scott Hartley