

Dear Elders and Pastor Platt,

Last Wednesday 90-100 MBC attendees/members attended the Congregational meeting in order to provide their specific comments about the Proposed Constitution that is being voted upon between tonight and this coming Sunday, 28 May. The consensus of those attending the meeting clearly expressed the belief that the Proposed Constitution needed further consideration and revision prior to taking a vote. It appears that the Proposed Constitution is being voted upon without the benefit of the discussion that occurred during that meeting. May I ask, what was the purpose of the meeting if nothing said would impact what went forward for a vote? I feel, at best, this is (and has been) dishonest on the part of Leadership.

That, and given the fact that the vote on this amendment will be without a meeting, without discussion, or without the opportunity to object before the entire congregation inexcusably suppresses communication critical to democratic and representative governance; which is clearly what MBC members expect and deserve. MBC (members *and* attendees) must have the ability to respectfully disagree without the fear of losing an already gained membership, or being prevented from becoming a member. Currently, anyone who disagrees is being SILENCED; and that Sirs, is reticent of a dictatorship. All we ask is that process, transparency, and the protections owed to every one of us be preserved and respected.

As such, those being asked to vote for this amendment are requesting that you pause and more carefully consider what was expressed in last week's meeting. I have to admit, it appeared your mind was made up before you even began the meeting, and that the Elder Board was not willing to consider any opposing positions whatsoever.

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed amendments to the MBC constitution. It seems that this Proposed Constitution is trying to justify and cover all the misdeeds that MBC Leadership has perpetrated the last few years; for example:

- removing memberships without cause
- canceling ministries and redirecting the monies without consulting the congregation
- demeaning and slandering members because they disagreed with what the Leadership was doing
- funneling money to the SBC in support of their church planting efforts
- totally disregarding the Constitution to further a new agenda without approval of or vote from the membership
- canceling bible studies wherein 50-60 people attended each week

- not providing meeting minutes and not reading them and/or getting them approved at subsequent Congregational meetings
- not holding a true congregational meeting according to the Constitution
- not providing a true financial report (what's coming in to the church and balanced to what is being spent)
- not allowing the membership to see who the new members are, even though they are called to approve them for membership
- restructuring the physical spaces of the church to accommodate ministries the membership has not approved (i.e. SBC, Radical, etc.)
- lack of transparency in general
- having people escorted out of meetings simply because they asked questions Leadership did not want to address
- trespassing members and removing their membership because they challenged what Leadership is/was doing
- not responding to communications and questions being posed to the Elders
- funneling all responses through one Elder (Mr. Hollingsworth)

The lawsuits filed over the last two years reflect the legitimate concerns that members currently have and have had with regard to the direction of the Church, the refusal of MBC Church leadership to follow the Constitution, the lack of transparency in financial dealings, the egregious way Leadership has treated longstanding members, and the list goes on.

The Apostle Paul, as a Roman citizen, was not afraid to use the Court system to spread the Gospel. Yet MBC Leadership claims taking complaints (that are not responded to by MBC Leadership) through the court system is unbiblical and causes disunity. All the dissention and lawsuits would have been stopped, had MBC Leadership just (1) followed the Constitution, (2) been transparent, and (3) been willing to listen and respond to the Congregation.

Acts 20:28 tells Leaders to “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” Are you actually doing this? Apparently not! When 12,000+ people leave a church in a timespan of just four (4) years, and the Leadership fails to examine what they are doing that is causing this....Pride and Arrogance is sooooo evident. And now a Constitutional OVERHAUL that tries to cover over all the sins of the last four (4) years. REALLY????

Kindly and Respectfully,