

## **Report: Committee on Offenses, Fellowship of Huntsville Church**

On Sunday, April 21, 2024, a duly convened assembly of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church (FOHC) constituted a committee to review recent offenses raised by worshipers and directed said committee to provide a corresponding report to the assembly.

This report reviews the biblical method mandated for offenses, specific offenses before the assembly, general offenses before the assembly, and the resolutions hereby submitted to the assembly pursuant to God's biblical method.

### **Biblical Method for Handling Offenses**

Mat 18:**15** 'And if thy brother may sin against thee, go and show him his fault between thee and him alone, if he may hear thee, thou didst gain thy brother; **16** and if he may not hear, take with thee yet one or two, that by the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may stand. **17**' And if he may not hear them, say [it] to the assembly, and if also the assembly he may not hear, let him be to thee as the heathen man and the tax-gatherer.

Offenses may arise among worshipers in any church body. Scripture gives the method for handling such offenses – Matthew 18:15-17. Once the first two steps of the Matthew 18 principle have been followed, the final step is to "...tell it to the assembly." There are certain offenses that are yet unreconciled in the FOHC body, but now as the body has been convened as the assembly to hear such offenses, the final step of Matthew 18 may be accomplished. The assembly is sometimes translated as congregation or church. But it is clear from the exegesis of the passage that it does not mean submission to the elder board but to the body of the church, the assembly.

A previous instance of discipline under Matthew 18 was invoked for FOHC senior pastor Hazlewood, who complained of a worshiper who had written multiple emails, the contents of which were alleged to be false. Step 1 had been followed. Step 2 was then performed by the elders, who held a hearing, received evidence and testimony, and issued a disciplinary order to the offender. Hazlewood was satisfied with the resolution at such step 2 of Matthew 18, and he did not pursue the final step 3 of "say it to the assembly, church" as there was no need.

### **Specific Individual Offenses Before the Assembly**

For offenses that may arise among worshipers in any church body the method for handling such offenses, being Matthew 18, is to be followed, the final step being to "...tell it to the assembly." Jesus instructs the assembly, the church, to deliberate and resolve such offense.

One Sunday school teacher's 30+ year Sunday school class was cancelled. Prior to any action by elders on the statement of faith, all content on the FOHC website was summarily removed, following the unilateral decision of a single elder who instructed a member of staff to remove the

content. There are multiple offenses against individuals by the elders of which have been complained over the past six months; some of those individuals do not choose to bring their offenses before this assembly. Individual offenses requested to be considered are:

Richard Ohendalski has been an FOHC worshiper, Sunday school teacher, and elder for over 30 years. He complains of Tim Ramsey to be considered for discipline for the removal of all Richard's Sunday school lessons from the FOHC website. Such removal was done unilaterally and without authority by Tim. The matter was first discussed among Richard, Tim and BJ, at which time Tim apologized for his actions. (Matthew 18, step 1). The matter was then taken to the full elder board, at which time each elder excused Tim's unilateral decision, taking no further action. (Matthew 18, step 2). The final biblical appeal is to this FOHC assembly. (Matthew 18, step 3). Richard is requesting an inquiry be made as to those involved, who took what actions; consider removal from offices of elder and staff for culpable acts, whatever is appropriate. See Appendix 1 for Richard's full previous complaint to the elders.

Richard further complains of the FOHC elder board, which informed him that his membership in the FOHC body has been revoked. Notice of such revocation was given by elders David Berry and Craig Clarke. Richard requested a written explanation for such revocation; Craig said nothing would be given in writing. Despite a request for specific reasons, and under what authority revocation of a worshiper's membership can even be done, he has received no response from the elders.

Richard further complains of the FOHC elder board, which issued him a criminal trespass warning. In mid-April 2024 Richard was told that if he was found on the premises of the church he would be arrested. Explanation was that the elders considered "... what you are doing is considered a threat to the elders..." However, no specifics were given of actions by Richard which would be considered threatening.

Eric McIntush has been a long-time worshiper at FOHC. Eric complains of the elder board, which informed him that his membership in the body has been revoked. Notice of such revocation was given via email to Eric. No specific reasons were given for such revocation; nor under what authority revocation of a worshiper's membership can even be done.

Eric further complains of the FOHC elder board, which issued him a criminal trespass warning. Eric was told via email that if he was found on the premises of the church he would be arrested. No specifics were given of actions by Eric which would be considered threatening.

### **General Offenses Before the Assembly**

The elders, acting as directors, have acted outside of and in violation of statutes governing the Fellowship of Huntsville Church ("Corporation"), being the Texas business organizations code, Title 2. Corporations, Chapter 22. Nonprofit corporations. ("TBOC").

The elders have acted outside the provisions of and in violation of the Corporation bylaws.

The elders have acted in violation of fundamental law, and in violation of the rights of members guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States of America. Specific statutes as below:

1. Failure to hold an annual meeting of the members at a time that is stated or determined in accordance with the Corporation's bylaws. Sec. 22.153.
2. Failure to call an annual meeting even upon members of the Corporation demanding that the meeting be held within a reasonable time. Sec. 22.154.
3. Failure to call a special meeting even upon members of the Corporation demanding that the meeting be held within a reasonable time. Sec. 22.155. Such special meeting was demanded by members having not less than one-tenth of the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting.
4. Failure to take member votes which are required to approve fundamental action. Sec. 22.164. Such "fundamental action" items include a reinstatement of the Corporation, and merger of the Corporation.
5. Failure to allow any voice in the management of the affairs of the Corporation by the members of the Corporation. Sec. 22.202.
6. Failure to disclose board member eligibility requirements. Sec. 22.203.
7. Failure to disclose to the members the number of directors. Sec. 22.204.
8. Failure to disclose to the members the method of election of directors in whatever manner is provided by the certificate of formation or bylaws. Sec. 22.206.
9. Failure to disclose to the members the terms of office of directors in whatever manner is provided by the certificate of formation or bylaws. Sec. 22.208.
10. Failure to comply with proper procedures in the removal of directors. Sec. 22.211.
11. Failure to comply with proper procedures in the removal of deacons/officers. Sec. 22.211.
12. Failure to discharge Directors' duties in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner that the members reasonably believe to be in the best interest of the Corporation. Sec. 22.221.
13. Failure to comply with statute by refusing members their rights to inspect books and records. Sec. 22.351.
14. Failure to make available the financial information of the Corporation for members' public inspection. Sec. 22.353.
15. The elders as Directors have claimed to remove members from the Corporation, such removal being done without cause, and without any causative charges being presented to the allegedly removed members.
16. The elders as Directors have taken actions affecting members of the Corporation by secret votes and refused to publish such votes.
17. The elders as Directors have denied to members fundamental due process in not allowing members charged to hear such charges and to face their accusers. Article 6, U.S. Constitution.

18. The elders as Directors have denied members the use and ownership of property without due process. Article 5, U.S. Constitution.
19. The elders as Directors have denied members the freedom to assemble by issuing criminal trespass warnings to members without specific charges or explanation, without notice, without publication to Corporation members, and without appeal. Article 1, U.S. Constitution.
20. The elders as Directors have denied members the freedom to worship. Article 1 U.S. Constitution.

### **Resolutions Submitted to the Assembly**

For offenses that may arise among worshipers in any church body the method for handling such offenses, being Matthew 18, is to be followed, the final step being to "...tell it to the assembly." Jesus instructs the assembly to deliberate and resolve such offenses.

#### **Regarding specific offenses complained of by Richard Ohendalski:**

**Whereas** the removal of all Sunday school lessons was done unilaterally and without express authority;

**Whereas** elder action revoking FOHC membership was done without explanation of authority allowing such revocation;

**Whereas** elder action issuing a criminal trespass warning was done without identification of any threatening acts and without explanation allowing such issuance:

#### **Regarding specific offenses complained of by Eric McIntush:**

**Whereas** elder action revoking FOHC membership was done without explanation of authority allowing such revocation;

**Whereas** elder action issuing a criminal trespass warning was done without identification of any threatening acts and without explanation allowing such issuance:

Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the duly convened assembly of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church call on all worshipers of FOHC, through whatever means and methods it deems appropriate, to

I Perform step 3 of Matthew 18, in the form of a jury, panel, full assembly, investigative committee (however it chooses to gather evidence), including the following as appropriate:

- A. The Liaisons (2 Moderators) to contact witnesses asking for testimonial evidence to be considered.
- B. Approve a witness list as being the following: Richard Ohendalski, Eric McIntush, Tim Ramsey, BJ Stewart, Heather Sanders, CF Hazlewood, David Berry, Craig Clarke, David Jones, Greg McKeever, Monte Pendley, and any other witness deemed appropriate.
- C. Discover probative documents under the possession, custody or control of those witnesses.

- D. Interview those witnesses to obtain evidence and testimony.
- E. From the evidence gathered, deliberate and issue a ‘judgment and order’ to any culpable parties complained of.
- F. Convey such ‘judgment and order’ to those parties, including adjudged disciplinary steps to comply with such ‘judgment and order’.

II Consider the result to those parties who refuse or ignore the biblical Matthew 18 inquiry of the assembly....

... being the final Step 4 of Matthew 18, treat them as the heathen man and the tax-gatherer.

Regarding general offenses before the Assembly

**Whereas** the elders, acting as Directors, have acted outside of and in violation of statutes governing the Fellowship of Huntsville Church (“Corporation”), being the Texas business organizations code, Title 2. Corporations, Chapter 22. Nonprofit corporations. (“TBOC”);

**Whereas** the elders have acted outside the provisions of and in violation of the Corporation bylaws, even refusing to disseminate copies of such bylaws;

**Whereas** the elders have acted in violation of fundamental law, and in violation of the rights of worshipers guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States of America;

Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the duly convened assembly of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church call on all worshipers of FOHC, through whatever means and methods it deems appropriate, to

I Require the elders, acting as Directors, to become fully compliant with the statutes governing the Fellowship of Huntsville Church (“Corporation”), being the Texas business organizations code, Title 2. Corporations, Chapter 22. Nonprofit corporations. (“TBOC”); and to become fully compliant with the Corporation bylaws; and to become fully compliant with fundamental law the Constitution of the United States of America in dealing with worshipers, by the following acts.

- A. Provide all worshipers with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of FOHC.
- B. Announce and conduct an election of Directors as provided by statute and bylaws.
- C. Issue a Directors Report to all worshipers certifying full compliance with Texas statutes.
- D. Announce publicly these actions no later than Sunday, June 30, 2024, and performed no later than Sunday, July 14, 2024.

## **Appendix 1:**

TO: FOHC ELDERS

RE: REQUEST FROM RICHARD OHENDALSKI

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2023\_

The event: Removal of all Sunday school lessons

My posture: Think I'm at the right place, right time, right posture. Elders ultimately decide.

My request: Inquiry into those involved; who did what when, why?

The event: Removal of all Sunday school lessons.

1. Found out Sunday October 29. FOHC members told me.
2. Same day texted BJ asking who handles lesson posting on net. No reply.
3. Same day called BJ left message same question. No reply.
4. Next morning 9am came to church office to see BJ.
5. Staff meeting finishing up. Asked BJ to talk. Tim asked for meeting... he said knew what's about.
6. Meeting Tim, BJ, me. Tim said he made the decision to remove all my teaching recordings.
7. Said was after recent staff meeting. DKeil said had received some comments about my teachings.
8. Tim told BJ then to remove all my teaching recordings. Told BJ to do so.
9. Asked Tim "why"? Tim said was wrong, reaction, trying to avoid "fights".
10. Fights? ...not fights, grumbling rather.... Discussed such some: grumblings by many, to many teachers etc.
11. Have you listened to my lessons? "Yes". Which ones, what topics? "Not recall". "Want to learn".
12. Called Heather. BJ and Heather text exchanges on Thursday (10/26/23). See attached to read.
13. (Commentary here: Heather, with Jeff, should be an elder here. Only staff or elders who acted rightly.)
14. Meeting asked BJ: had he taken down, or been asked to not upload, any of my lessons?  
Said: no authority.

My posture: Think I'm at the right place, right time, right posture. Elders ultimately decide.

1. Think have followed Mth 18: went first to BJ; then Tim who sat in; have forgiven Tim right then. Then called Debbie to ask who I offended. (No reply. Then text. Not yet spoken with.) Then called David Jones to discuss his role.

2. Is 1Ti5.19 correct? “Do not accept an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.” The witnesses I think are: me, Tim, BJ, David, Debbie, other staff at meeting, Heather.
3. If elders say there’s more I should do, I will submit and do.
4. I think I’ve been “cancelled”. Cancel culture can involve boycotting, rejecting, or ending support for the targets. The point is eliminating thoughts of certain people from polite society. If someone can control what you say they will attempt to control your ability to function in some societal realm.
5. I submit, whichever actors did so without authority; unbiblically; surely unchristian like.
6. I submit, they possibly have proven to be unworthy of being elders, shepherds; possibly even staff.
7. Re: Tim avoiding “Fights”. Some commentary:
8. In my 33 years as member and 29 years as elder of FOHC, there have not been ‘fights’. Not even much ‘grumbling’ however that is defined that has required church/elder attention or action. Presume ‘theological’.
9. Stating he hoped to avoid [theological] fights, Tim created such. And involved others.
10. The 33 years I know have existed with theological differences, not fights. Picture used is unity, though diversity, unto harmony, of the FOHC body.
11. Until... recently with the addition of 2 elders who even during vetting process have made large issue of the FOHC creed; who is “we believe”; if one doesn’t “believe” then cannot teach etc.
12. How do we go forward? Theological differences allowed. Or policing of the FOCH creed? Unity and diversity unto harmony. 1Co 11, Paul says is necessary for “hairesis” divisions, though not “schismatics”. This has been FOHC history.
13. Who is next to be cancelled?
14. Who should be recorded in all their teachings? Tim? David? Youth teachers, Greg? Do we all vet all teachings?
15. Obvious to me is major decision point.

- My request:
1. For this event, do inquiry into those involved; who did what when, why? What the objections?
  2. If culpable remove from offices, elders, staff... whatever is appropriate.
  3. Consider further evaluation of staff actions: by elders, larger FOCH body also. (This is due to comments made to me about similar actions taken by Tim and BJ. I’ll not repeat. That is outside the scope of this request.)
  4. Further action by elders as deemed proper.

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