



the CHURCH OF GOD

PREPARING for the KINGDOM of GOD

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To:

In April of 1995, I set up a corporation with By-laws under the name of United Church of God-Toledo, inc. The purpose of such a corporation was to facilitate the ongoing need to do the business necessary to carry on the functions of a Church in order to help any who desired to follow me as I was following Jesus Christ. A few minor changes were made to those By-laws, including a change in the name of the corporation to "the Church of God, inc."

At no time was it ever intended that the corporation be established to provide for a congregationalist form of government, where the direction of the Church could be determined by the congregation or board members. Our belief has always been that such direction is determined and led through the ministry. The By-laws were introduced with the intent of enabling more input from the congregation in the affairs of the Church, but not with the intent of the congregation making final decisions that would determine the course of the Church.

This ministry has continued to grow where the number of brethren being served outside the Detroit and Toledo area has far surpassed our local numbers. Primarily through the publication of *News Watch* and taped sermons that I have given, these brethren have chosen to follow me as I follow Jesus Christ, or at the least, their support is based upon this ministry with which they agree and/or favor.

This corporation has existed to enable and accomplish the ministry and service that God has given through me as a pastor. Anyone who endangers or threatens the continuing welfare of this corporation is working against the spiritual welfare of all those scattered brethren whom this ministry is dedicated to serve. Any such action against the corporation are against all scattered brethren whom this ministry serves. This kind of failure to love those scattered brethren is equivalent to the biblical definition of hate and is addressed by such scriptures as 1 John 3:14, 1 John 4:20 through 5:3, and 2 John 1:3-10.

Efforts to thwart or overthrow this ministry are a most serious spiritual matter. Any action to steal from God's tithes and offerings to be used for some other purpose except that upon which this corporation has been founded is worthy of the strongest discipline. No member of the corporation can be considered to be in "good standing" if they seek to subvert the direction that God is leading me as a pastor in the Church of God and as the only pastor of the Church of God, inc.

In the past, all Board members and the pastor have been in agreement on all matters. As I have sought to lead the Church in all doctrine and truth, in recent months I have worked to help brethren reaffirm the most fundamental and foundational beliefs contained in the list of "18 Truths" as outlined in *The Worldwide News* of August 25, 1986. The very first of those trunk of the tree, foundation, truths is that which concerns government in the Church of God. As a result of revisiting that doctrine, a flaw in our current By-laws has come to light and must be corrected, as it is in conflict with the doctrinal beliefs of the Church of God. There had been no conflict as long as the Board members continued to follow me as I follow Jesus Christ.

The need to repeal our By-laws and establish new ones that are in better alignment with number one of the "18 Truths" concerning government is essential and must conform as perfectly as possible to the structure outlined by that truth that is revealed in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4.

It should be obvious that any failure to support the doctrines of the Church concerning the matter of government, seeking any control over God's tithes, and/or any failure of brethren to truly love their scattered brethren as outlined in this letter is a matter of the deepest spiritual significance. Opposition to the spiritual laws of God in these matters would place any member of the Body of Christ in great jeopardy as to their continued standing as a part of that spiritual body.

It is not the desire of this ministry to disfellowship any brethren, but if there is infraction of any of those three items mentioned in the previous paragraph, such brethren will leave me no choice but to follow through with carrying out the responsibility God has given me to protect those brethren He has placed in my charge.

Already, some have seemingly made up their minds to be in opposition, while others have simply not had the time necessary to spend in prayer and study in order to come to their decision. Such people who need more time to prove matters to themselves, for one way or the other, should be given ample opportunity to do so as long as it is done in a spiritually correct manner, void of bitterness, slander, accusation, or in a spirit of divisiveness. Any who truthfully seek more time in this matter, out of a genuine desire of love and care for all brethren, are under the grace of God and should not feel any pressure to make decisions for which they are not ready. However, such brethren should also step aside in this matter until their convictions are complete.

And so, for the lack of a better way of addressing these various matters, it is deemed prudent for all such people who genuinely believe they need more time in this matter, that they be given a period of probation of seven weeks to come to their decision. If more time is needed beyond that, then such individuals may make such a request. Because of this state of indecision for such brethren who come under this probation period, their status as members in "good standing" must also be set aside until they can act upon their convictions one way or the other. This is made necessary for the insured welfare of other scattered brethren.

Others who have already made up their mind to be in opposition to this ministry are requested to peacefully sever their relationship with this fellowship and seek another fellowship that is more in line with their beliefs. Any such individuals who are in this category, because they have already stated their convictions of opposition or because of their actions that reflect divisiveness in this matter, are automatically being given a seven week period of probation and are not members in "good standing" with this fellowship. This probation period is given to these individuals with the hope that they will not force me to take further action requiring disfellowshippment, but will peacefully depart in friendship. This probation period is also given to such individuals with the hope that they might come to repentance and change, with a desire to remain in this fellowship.

As this letter has been addressed to you, you know whether this probation period is being given because you need more time to prove matters to yourself or whether you have stated opposition to this ministry, either directly or by divisive action on your part. If you have any questions about this, you are encouraged to call me and clarify anything you do not fully understand. This probation period of seven week, beginning with this Sabbath, means that you are no longer classified as a member in "good standing" until this matter is resolved.

With genuine love for full reconciliation and in the service of Jesus Christ.



Ron Weinland

DATED: February 5, 2000