

Motion for Third Party Investigation

To the delegates of the churches of Fellowship Prairies,

We pray for you and desire our region of churches to be united for the sake of Christ and the advance of his Kingdom. May the Lord bring healing, health, and vitality to our fellowship of churches as we look forward to the coming year. We are grateful for your consideration of the following motion:

WHEREAS, the following allegations have been raised regarding the activity of the Fellowship Prairies Leadership Board (FPLB):

1. The FPLB hindered the involvement of Fairview Baptist Church Calgary (FBCC) in our region by dissuading other churches in the region from supporting them. This included comments related to homeschooling.
2. Additional allegations of misconduct of FPLB members, including lying to committees, were brought forward to the FPLB by Park City Gospel Church (PCGC).
3. In response to PCGC raising concerns about this to the FPLB, the Leadership Board removed a FPLB member from PCGC in a way which violated provincial Acts and the FPI bylaw.
4. In response to Fellowship Baptist Church Edmonton's (FBCE) privately raising concern about this action of the FPLB, the Leadership Board sought to publicly discipline FBCE by seeking to move them to associate status along with FBCC and PGGC;

WHEREAS, the FPLB sought to move three churches (PCGC, FBCC, FBCE) to non-voting status in a manner incongruent with our bylaws, section 3.04. Specifically, the FPLB (1) refused to meet in "private meetings" with PCGC (9.02), (2) failed to provide twenty days notice to the churches; (3) failed to allow the churches a written submission; (4) failed to provide the regional churches with these submissions; (5) failed to allow the churches to "consider such submissions in arriving at a final decision by ordinary resolution" at Convention; and (6) failed to provide *cause* for the discipline prior to Convention (3.04). In addition, the chair of the FPLB made numerous statements at Equip 2024 concerning the churches who raised ethical concerns about the FPLB's conduct, which comments the churches claim would be falsified with evidence;

WHEREAS, the matter at hand is not a "dispute or controversy" (9.02), but allegations of FPLB misconduct and violation of the bylaws; and that the FPLB investigated allegations of its own conduct in a way which does not appear to comply with the bylaws;

WHEREAS, the mediation process was entered in good faith by the churches facing disciplinary action but failed;

WHEREAS, though at Equip 2024 it was repeatedly stated that what would follow would amount to an "investigation" which would report to Equip so that the delegates could make an informed decision, it is claimed that the FPLB forbade board members from sharing perspectives with the 2024 Mediation Team which deviated from the official position of the FPLB, demanding the

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board, “speak with one voice”, which contributed to the failure of the mediation process. The FPLB has consistently resisted an approach which would provide a significant report to the Convention, citing “confidentiality.”

WHEREAS, the bylaws require such matters to be addressed according to Scripture, which provide for public vindication or rebuke of leadership in the assembly (Mt 18, 1 Tim 5); and that the FPLB “is fully accountable to the Voting Members [i.e., the member churches] at the Annual Convention” (5.02);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that an independent, third-party, Christian arbitration ministry, conduct an investigation in the matters above, and those which may arise because of the investigation, and report its findings to the member churches of Fellowship Prairies. The members of FPLB and staff of FPI will submit to this investigation which will encompass the tenure of the current Regional Director. The member churches, at a convention, will rule on these matters informed by the report of the investigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Steven Jones, President of FEB Canada, will be empowered to select one of the following Christian Ministries: Anchor of Hope (Institute for Christian Conciliation) or Peacemaker Ministries. If neither of those ministries are acceptable, an alternative Christian Ministry will be selected by the unanimous consent of the aggrieved churches and Steven Jones.

Tim Stephens, Senior Pastor, Fairview Baptist Church of Calgary
Derek deVries, Senior Pastor, Park City Gospel Church of Winnipeg

By voting “Yes” for this motion, you are not voting to impugn the Leadership Board, nor the churches above. Rather, you are voting for an independent investigation into these matters with a report given to the churches of Fellowship Prairies. If there is wrongdoing on the part of the Leadership Board or on the part of the three churches, that will be made known and can be dealt with appropriately at a later time.

To determine whether member churches or the Board is subject to disciplinary action, we believe a full, third-party investigation, giving insight to the churches, who are the final authority in our region, is the best path forward for reconciliation.