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## Fellowship Prairies Leadership Board letter to the region

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Tim Stephens <tim.stephens@fairviewbaptistchurch.ca>

Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 4:19 PM

To: leah@fellowshipprairies.ca

Cc: Mark Breitreuz <mark@fellowshipprairies.ca>, Ben Smith <ben.sarahsmith@gmail.com>, Mark Evans <markjgevans@gmail.com>, Barry Klassen <barryk@crossfieldbaptist.com>, Doug Baynton <doug@fbclloyd.ca>, "Sheila (Jason) Martins" <sheila@martininteriors.ca>, Thomas Smith <tesmith5877@gmail.com>, "evelynusher@hotmail.com" <evelynusher@hotmail.com>

Bcc: Derek deVries <derek.devries@parkcitygospelchurch.com>, Jason Hagen <jason@fellowshippedmonton.com>

Hi Fellowship Prairies Leadership Board,

As you know, it is the board who is responsible for carrying out the wishes of the churches in our region. The churches at convention, not the board, remain the highest authority in matters of business and interpretation of the bylaws (Bylaw 5.02). Our regional convention (EQUIP 2025) passed several motions regarding the disagreement between the board and our church concerning allegations of misconduct by the Regional Director (RD) and the Board Chair raised by Park City Gospel Church.

It is important to note that the churches passed a separate motion to end the mediation/arbitration process begun in 2024. Therefore, there is no mediation or arbitration to resume.

In addition, the motion calling for a third-party investigation contained several statements and resolutions (see attached). The only portion involving Steve Jones was the final paragraph ("be it further resolved") for the selection of a third-party investigator. If Steve cannot fulfill that role, that is fine, however, the remainder of the motion remains in force.

Furthermore, legal counsel cannot nullify or abrogate a motion passed. Legal counsel provides counsel. They have no authority. The churches at convention remain the highest authority. If the board is unwilling to carry out the wishes of the churches, the board also has no authority to unilaterally strike motions passed at convention. This behavior, exemplified in your letter dated September 19, is all the more concerning because it is this kind of unilateral heavy-handedness that fueled concerns in the first place.

I agree that neither the board nor the churches can contravene the bylaws. This was the basis of our appeal in 2024 when the board was seeking to discipline our church without the due process outlined in Section 3. For the sake of clarity, the motion passed at EQUIP 2025 was clear that the matter at hand is not a Section 9 dispute, but allegations of misconduct by the RD and board chair. Differing interpretations of the bylaws are settled by the churches at convention.

I understand that the RD and board chair were vociferously against our motion before EQUIP 2025, calling it sinfully divisive. Therefore, I urge the rest of the board to take these allegations of misconduct seriously. I would encourage you to speak with Arden Boville as he was present during the alleged unethical behavior. Arden is a gentle soul and his perspective would be invaluable. He supports our motion, not because he is a friend (we do not know each other anymore than I know the remainder of the board), but because he witnessed the behavior of the RD and board chair.

I may be wrong, but I believe that the RD and board chair (1) want our three churches out of the region; and (2) want details of their misconduct kept from the churches (confidentiality is a requirement of Section 9).

The churches of our region voted for transparency through an investigation into allegations of misconduct. I still believe in that course of action. Allow me to copy and paste the final two paragraphs of our motion which were adopted by our churches.

*"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."*

I would encourage you to carry out the will of the churches and advocate for transparency. If the RD and Board Chair are convinced that there was no unethical behavior, they should be willing to enter into this process and be publically

vindicated. If there is no fault on the RD or board chair, then it will be our churches (Fairview, Park City, and Fellowship Edmonton) that will suffer shame for baseless accusations and a divisive spirit.

If I may speak directly to the other board members (Mark E, Barry, Doug, Sheila, Tom, Evelyn), the RD and board chair are in a conflict of interest if they are the ones deciding not to follow the will of the churches and submit to a third-party investigation. If the remainder of the board refuses to deal with allegations of misconduct against the RD and board chair, then the board exacerbates the problem and communicates to the churches that the board will not be "fully accountable to the Voting Members at the Annual Convention" (5.02).

Tim

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**Motion For Third Party Investigation 2025.pdf**

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