



April 21, 2023

This document contains a copy of all the correspondence that local pastors have had with the Elders and Pastors of The Orchard Evangelical Free Church.

We have become aware of rumors suggesting this group of pastors (organized under the name Christian Emergency League) has refused to meet with elders of The Orchard EFC or that our letters were simply the product of a disgruntled employee. Both of these ideas are entirely false.

We requested several times a meeting with the leadership of The Orchard EFC. These requests were denied.

Although some in this pastor group have connections with The Orchard EFC, concerns were shared by numerous pastors with no direct connection. Our connection is our union with the Lord Jesus Christ and our desire to see His truth advanced in the face of error.

Let the record be clear as witnessed by the following documents in addition to related email correspondence.

First email sent to Orchard with Letter on **December 2, 2022**.

Response by Orchard dated **December 16, 2022**.

Second email to Orchard with Letter sent on **Feb. 8, 2023**.

Response by Orchard dated **February 21, 2023**.

Third email with just a response dated **February 21, 2023**.

Third letter was sent **April 17, 2023**.

From: Calvin Lindstrom [REDACTED]
Subject: Important Letter for Orchard Leadership
Date: December 2, 2022 at 11:26 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]



Dear Pastor Colin and Pastor Scott,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of eleven other pastors in the Chicagoland area and beyond, I am sharing with you a very important letter. This letter is for the entire leadership of The Orchard. This letter has only been shared among the pastors who have signed this letter, and is shared with deep respect and great concern. As you know, events are unfolding in our nation that well could lead to Christian churches being targeted if they stand for Biblical truth.

Senator Ted Cruz stated this about the "Respect of Marriage Act":

The so-called Respect for Marriage Act is going to set the stage for the Biden IRS to target people of faith, and in particular, **to deny tax exempt status to churches, charities, universities, and K-12 schools. This bill creates a federal cause of action to sue institutions that believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman.** There are going to be hundreds of lawsuits filed all across this country, forcing underfunded defendants to settle and violate their beliefs or close their doors. That's what the Democrats want. And 12 Republicans went along with it.

This letter addresses a matter that hits close to home here in Arlington Heights and the celebration of "Pride Month." Please do give careful consideration to it. We also would request a reply to this letter.

In Christ's Love,

Calvin Lindstrom
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL
[REDACTED]

12-01-22
Orchar...er.docx



Dear Colin Smith and the Elders of the Orchard,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In God's Providence and kindness, the Orchard has become one of the leading evangelical churches in the Chicagoland area. The city of Arlington Heights, IL is also a very prominent city with very active community engagement.

With great sorrow we have witnessed cities like Arlington Heights, Palatine, and others recognize the month of June as "Pride Month." This is very grievous. It represents people in cities across our nation flagrantly rejecting God's good design and created order. It also represents God's judgment as God's Word makes plain that He has judged people—even those who were not His own people for practicing such evil abominations in history (Leviticus 18:27-29; Romans 1:18-32). The month of June has been designated because of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City in June 1969. The Stonewall Uprising was an attack on police officers, who sought to take action on a filthy, illegally operating bar in New York that was known as a place where children could be obtained for sexual perversion.¹

It is our understanding that Mayor Tom Hayes has signed in 2021 and 2022 a Proclamation in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Signing this proclamation for the past two years is of great concern because Mayor Hayes is a professed believer, and we understand a member of good standing at the

¹ John Lofton in 2013 described the horrible scene at the Stonewall bar quoting from a pro-homosexual writer named Martin Duberman, author of the book *Stonewall*.

When the police raided Stonewall about 1:20 a.m. on June 28, 1969, the bar was full of male whores and drugged and drunken "drag queens" (men wearing women's clothes). A cop shoved one of the patrons, telling her (?) to keep moving. She (?) started swinging at the cop. As Duberman tells it:

"By now the crowd had swelled to a mob, and people were picking up and throwing whatever loose objects were at hand – coins, bottles, cans, bricks from a nearby construction site. Someone even picked up a dog from the street and threw it in the cop's direction." Cops had to dodge flying glass. One was hit near the eye with a shard of glass, causing blood to spurt out. A beer can bounced off another cop's head. And a man Duberman describes as 'a wild Puerto Rican queen' verbally threatened to rape a male cop he believed to be of Irish ancestry.

When the police retreated inside the bar and barricaded the door, according to Duberman, "an arm reached through a shattered window, squirted more lighter fluid into the room, and then threw in another lit match. This time the match caught, and there was a whoosh of flame." Just then, police reinforcements arrived and saved their colleagues inside from being burned to death. Four cops were wounded in this riot. Some suffered human bites."

Orchard Evangelical Free Church. People who attend your church and who are affiliated with your church have brought these concerns up with us as well.

We, a collection of local churches in the Chicagoland area and beyond, are asking for clarification on how The Orchard views this Proclamation and on your church's beliefs about these matters.

What are The Orchard's beliefs on marriage and sexual morality? Can you see how the signing of this Proclamation by a member of The Orchard, a prominent evangelical church, can cause confusion and harm even sowing deception in the body of Christ and in our neighbor's minds?

How are your expressed beliefs compatible with this Proclamation and with a member of your church publicly supporting and celebrating sins that God's Word clearly teaches cause great earthly and eternal suffering? See Romans 1:27, 1 Cor. 6:9-11, Eph. 5:6 and Rev. 22:14-15.

We greatly hope and pray that The Orchard continues to preach and teach the glorious gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray you hold fast to the whole counsel of God's inerrant Word and we send this out of humble, loving desire for clarity, unity and for God to be glorified in the Chicagoland area.

Submitted with concern and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Calvin Lindstrom
Christian Emergency League
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL

John Newby
Orchard Valley Baptist Church
Aurora, IL

James Pittman, Jr.
Christian Emergency League
New Hope Community Church
Palatine, IL

Alex Rodriguez (former Orchard Pastoral Resident)
The Outpost Bible Church
McHenry, IL

JT Taylor
Christian Emergency League
Cadwell Baptist Church
Cadwell, GA

Matthew Black
Living Hope Bible Church
Roselle, IL

Brandon Myers (former Orchard Pastor)
Christ the King Reformed Baptist Church
Niles, IL

Shando Valdez
New Jerusalem Evangelical Baptist Church
Chicago, IL

Lucas O'Neill
Christian Fellowship Church
Itasca, IL

Jacques Jacobs
Christ Nation
Schaumburg, IL

David Smith
Illinois Family Institute
Tinley Park, IL

Chris Huff
Forest Preserve Bible Church
Chicago, IL

Brian Prewitt
Cardinal Drive Church of Christ
Rolling Meadows, IL

Jintaek Chung
Trinity Gospel Church
Elk Grove Village, IL

Lucas O'Neill
Christian Fellowship Church
Itasca, IL

From: Pete Alle [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Error in Counting
Date: December 16, 2022 at 1:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PA

Good Afternoon Calvin,

Attached is our response to your letter. I have also copied our Elder Committee and Church Board Chair-Elect on this communication.

May your celebration of Christmas be blessed.

In Christ

Pete Alle

Pete Alle | Elder Committee Chairman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Calvin Lindstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2022 12:41 PM
To: Garry Carter [REDACTED]; Jeff Rylander [REDACTED]; John Andrew [REDACTED]; Pete Alle <[REDACTED]>; Jordan Bradish [REDACTED]; Colin Smith [REDACTED]; Scott Lothery [REDACTED]
Subject: Error in Counting

Dear Elders and Pastors of Orchard,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I wanted to call your attention to an error that I made in the letter. One pastor appears twice on the letter. In total, 14 concerned pastors have signed the letter.

In Christ's Love,

Calvin Lindstrom
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL



This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The company accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.



December 16, 2022

Pastor Lindstrom,

Thank you for your letter. We understand your concerns and want you to know that The Orchard has a clear position on the issues that you raised. Our constitution states, "We believe that God makes us male and female, that He gives marriage as a lifelong union of one man and one woman, and that He gives sexual union as a gift to be enjoyed only in marriage (Genesis 1:27, 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6)."

Christians called to serve in politics often face difficult choices and decisions and sometimes have to settle for the least worst option. This is increasingly true in business and in many other spheres of life.

Issues of conscience are complex for all believers. We will all stand before the judgment seat of God and each of us will stand or fall before his or her own Master (Rom 14:4).

In Christ

A blacked-out redacted signature.

Pete Alle,
Chairman of the Elder Committee

cc: Elder Committee

From: Calvin Lindstrom [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Error in Counting

Date: December 16, 2022 at 4:05 PM

To: Pete Alle [REDACTED]

Cc: Garry Carter [REDACTED], Jeff Rylander [REDACTED], John Andrew [REDACTED], Jordan Bradish [REDACTED], Colin Smith [REDACTED], Scott Lothery [REDACTED]



Dear Peter and Elders of Orchard,

Greetings to you in Christ's name. I thank you for the language that you have in your church constitution. It is the matter about settling for the worst option that is very concerning. I will share your response with those who signed the letter.

May your celebration of our Lord's coming and incarnation also be blessed.

In Christ,
Calvin Lindstrom

On Dec 16, 2022, at 1:04 PM, Pete Alle [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Afternoon Calvin,

Attached is our response to your letter. I have also copied our Elder Committee and Church Board Chair-Elect on this communication.

May your celebration of Christmas be blessed.

In Christ

Pete Alle

Pete Alle | Elder Committee Chairman

From: Calvin Lindstrom <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2022 12:41 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Error in Counting

Dear Elders and Pastors of Orchard,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I wanted to call your attention to an error that I made in the letter. One pastor appears twice on the letter. In total, 14 concerned pastors have signed the letter.

In Christ's Love,

Calvin Lindstrom
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL

Amington Heights, IL

[REDACTED]

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The company accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

<Letter_Response_12_16_22.pdf>

From: Calvin Lindstrom [redacted]
Subject: Response to the Orchard & Request for Meeting
Date: February 8, 2023 at 10:46 AM



To: [redacted]
[redacted]

Bcc: [redacted]
[redacted]

Dear Elders and Pastors of Orchard,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please note the attached letter in response to your most recent communication. Thank you.

In Christ's Love,

Calvin Lindstrom
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL

[redacted]

Orchard
Letter2.pdf
50 KB



February 7, 2023

Dear Colin Smith and the Elders of the Orchard,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On December 16, you sent a letter of response. We are very happy to hear what you have written in your church constitution. Our concern is your statement regarding Christians called to serve in politics and that sometimes they “have to settle for the least worst option.”

We believe that the very clear record of Scripture goes against this idea. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah put their lives on the line rather than choose the least worst option.

This is not an issue that is going away anytime soon. It is vital that churches and Christian politicians speak truth and count the cost. As much as there can be profit in sending letters back and forth, we request a meeting to better discuss these important issues in person.

Please share a date with us when this could be possible.


Submitted with concern and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Calvin Lindstrom
Christian Emergency League
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL

James Pittman, Jr.
Christian Emergency League
New Hope Community Church
Palatine, IL

JT Taylor
Christian Emergency League
Cadwell Baptist Church
Cadwell, GA

Brandon Myers (former Orchard Pastor)
Christ the King Reformed Baptist Church
Niles, IL

From: [REDACTED] 
Subject: Elder Committee Letter
Date: February 21, 2023 at 3:07 PM
To: Calvin Lindstrom, [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

PA

Good Afternoon Pastor Lindstrom,

Attached is our letter of response to your letter of 2/7/23.

In Christ,

Pete Alle | Elder Committee Chairman

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Elder_Committee
_Letter...23.pdf

February 21, 2023

Pastor Lindstrom,

We have received your letter dated February 7th.

In our previous communication we stated that issues of conscience are complex for all believers, not only those in government service. We also indicated that we will all stand before the judgment seat of God and each of us will stand or fall before his or her own Master (Romans 14:4)

Further, Scripture teaches that it is the responsibility of the Elders to shepherd our flock as entrusted by our Lord (1 Peter 5:2). We accept that responsibility with joy and approach it with the weight and serious consideration that Scripture ascribes to this calling.

We are happy to offer this response out of respect for you and the other signers of the letter, but having done so, we respectfully decline your request to meet and engage in further conversation on this issue.

In Christ,

A blacked-out signature, likely of Pete Alle, covering the name and possibly the title.

Pete Alle
Chairman of the Elder Committee

cc: Elder Committee

From: Calvin Lindstrom [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Elder Committee Letter
Date: February 21, 2023 at 3:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]



Dear Peter,

Greetings to you in Christ's name. I wanted to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with this email. I also wanted to state that we are troubled that you are not open to meeting about an issue that has very serious implications for Christians in our area and around the nation.

In Christ,
Calvin Lindstrom

On Feb 21, 2023, at 3:07 PM, Pete Alle [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Afternoon Pastor Lindstrom,

Attached is our letter of response to your letter of 2/7/23.

In Christ,

Pete Alle | Elder Committee Chairman

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

From: Calvin Lindstrom [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to the Orchard, Number 3
Date: April 17, 2023 at 1:59 PM



To: [REDACTED]
Cc: James Pittman [REDACTED], Brandon Myers [REDACTED], JT Taylor [REDACTED], David Wenkel [REDACTED]
Bcc: [REDACTED]

Dear Elders and Pastors of Orchard,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please note again the attached letter. June is coming very close when the issue of celebrating perversion will be upon us. We cannot just think that this is a matter to be ignored. It is vital that churches that believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ stand for truth and righteousness. Please seriously consider what has been written.

In Christ's Love,

Calvin Lindstrom
Church of Christian Liberty
Christian Emergency League
Arlington Heights, IL

[REDACTED]

04-17-23 Letter
to Orch..._3.pdf
[119 KB](#)



April 17, 2023

Dear Colin Smith and the Elders of the Orchard,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On February 21, you sent a letter of response to our request to meet and discuss the matter of the Pride Proclamation that was signed by the Mayor of Arlington Heights who is a member in good standing at The Orchard Evangelical Free Church.

As we mentioned in our previous letter, this is not an issue that is going away anytime soon. It is vital that biblically faithful churches stand firm united in encouraging Christian politicians speak truth and count the cost. We do not understand why you would not be open to a private meeting on this issue with us. The Orchard Evangelical Free Church is considered one of the leading evangelical churches in the Chicagoland area and has influence over many other local churches, pastors and individual Christians.

Your claim expressed by Pete Alle on a few occasions that these are matters of conscience is completely erroneous. Please note the attached response by theologian and pastor Dr. David Wenkel. Publicly promoting the sin of sodomy is not a matter of conscience. If so, we would love to see the reference in Scripture to justify this.

A Christian civil magistrate whose duty it is to praise those who do good and punish those who do evil (Rom 13:4) and who calls evil good and good evil (Is. 5:20) is not a matter of conscience. Publicly promoting that which the Word of God clearly, repeatedly and consistently defines as sinful is not a matter of conscience (whether it is the sin of rejecting God's good creational design of male/female, the sin of defaming marriage, the sin of sodomy, the sin of effeminacy, the sin of cross dressing, the sin of lesbianism, the sin of all kinds of sexual immoralities, sexual perversions, evil desires, the adopting of idolatrous identities, etc.). Lying about history (i.e. Stonewall Riots) is not a matter of conscience. Partnering with evil and darkness is not a matter of conscience. Celebrating sins and encouraging others to do the same is not a matter of conscience. Deceiving one's neighbors concerning the holy law and righteous standards of the one true living God is never a matter of conscience. Refusing to identify sins as sins and refusing to practice very basic church discipline and call a man who professes faith in Christ who is a member of your church to repentance for his public celebration and support of culturally respectable sins and his encouraging everyone else to join him

is not a matter of conscience. Being ashamed of the gospel is not a matter of conscience. Being a coward, whose public statements contradict what his own church claims to believe about God's Word is not a matter of conscience. Being complicit with and conformed to the spirit of the age is not a matter of conscience. None of these things are a matter of conscience. If you truly believe that any of these things are matters of the conscience, we invite you to open up the Word of God and justify what you claim with sound exegesis. We genuinely grieve over your tolerance of and complicity with sins. We grieve over your unwillingness to stand strong on the Word of God without shame. And we grieve that Mayor Thomas Hayes's pastors refuse to love his soul and call him to account now before the judgment seat.

We fully recognize that Mayor Hayes was placed in a difficult position. For many years the movement promoting sodomy has been advancing an agenda. It has now reached our very neighborhood and church. The pressure was very great. Would it not have been wonderful for Mayor Hayes to have done the right thing in refusing to sign? Would it have not been wonderful if The Orchard Evangelical Church reached out to other like-minded churches and asked for prayer? **What a beautiful sight it would have been for Mayor Hayes to have been surrounded by pastors and other Christians in a serious time of prayer asking for God to grant him the boldness to do the right thing.** This would have been very God-honoring. But instead, the decision was driven by the fear of man rather than the fear of God. And now it has come to this sad state.

Because there is a refusal to meet with us, our next step is to share this matter with other concerned Christians in our state and nation.

Submitted with concern and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Calvin Lindstrom
Christian Emergency League
Church of Christian Liberty
Arlington Heights, IL

Lucas O'Neill
Christian Fellowship Church
Itasca, IL

James Pittman, Jr.
Christian Emergency League
New Hope Community Church
Palatine, IL

Pastor David Wenkel, Ph.D.

Matthew Black
Living Hope Bible Church
Roselle, IL

JT Taylor
Christian Emergency League
Cadwell Baptist Church
Cadwell, GA

Brandon Myers (former Orchard Pastor)
Christ the King Reformed Baptist Church
Niles, IL

On the Use of Christian Liberty
Pastor David Wenkel, Ph.D.

This letter is about the actions of Tom W. Hayes, who signed, read, and supported a public letter which celebrated sodomy and homosexuality for LGBTQ+ Pride month in Arlington Heights. You previously defended Tom's actions by placing it within the category of Christian liberty as a private issue of his conscience. This response to you explains that this use of Christian liberty is a mistake and a misreading of the scriptures.

1. There is a legitimate category for Christian liberty

The category of Christian liberty exists because the new covenant is characterized by freedom; for Jesus has set his people free and where the Spirit is, there is freedom. Paul acknowledges areas of dispute and various opinions in Romans 14. These include what we eat, drink, and when we worship. It is important to understand that the law of God does not address these matters in the new covenant era. Believers must not "pass judgment on one another any longer" (Rom 14:13) and encourage each other to be "fully convinced in his own mind" about what should be done (Rom 14:5). Paul's principle of ethics is that "all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful" (1 Cor 6:12). *Where the scripture is silent, we must use the category of Christian liberty.*

2. There is a legitimate category for God's law

The category of God's law exists because God has poured out his Spirit and empowered his church to obey his commands. The new covenant era is characterized by freedom as well as holiness and obedience to God's laws that he has revealed in his word. First, the Jerusalem Council requires in *general terms* that all Gentiles in this age abstain "from sexual immorality" (Acts 15:20). This broad command is repeated elsewhere (e.g., 1 Cor 5:11; Gal 5:19). Second, several passages define homosexuality in clear and *specific terms* as against God's law (1 Cor 6:9; 1 Tim 1:10; Jude 7). This means that sodomy and homosexuality is not within the category of Christian liberty and never can be. *Where the scriptures speak about sin and define it in the new covenant, we must obey and submit to God's word by*

judging, warning, abstaining, refraining, and repenting.

The apostle Paul specifically refers to the "dishonorable passions" of homosexuality in Romans 1:26-27 and warns that those of a "debased mind" will "give approval" to such practices (Rom 1:32). The approval and celebration of sin is distinguished from the act but is still a sin itself.

We do not assert that Tom practices these sexual sins. Rather, we charge that Tom has committed a *greater* sin by publicly approving of sodomy and homosexuality. Commentators such as Kruse, Schreiner, Cranfield, Calvin, Ambrosiaster, and Chrysostom point out that Paul states in Rom 1:32 that approving sin is a *greater* sin than the doing of it because it reveals a hardened heart.

Three points are clear. First, where the scripture is silent, we must use the category of Christian liberty. Second, where the scripture speaks, we must submit to it as God's law and place ourselves under its authority as God's word by obeying it. Sodomy and homosexuality are always in the second category, not the first. Third, no Christian can claim that approving of sexual sin is a matter of conscience.

There is a "wine" of sexual immorality that the nations have drunk (Rev 18:3). Brothers, do not drink this wine. Spit out what you have swallowed. We warn you that Jesus will come with the "sword of his mouth" against the church which enables the stumbling block of sexual immorality (Rev 2:12-16).

To summarize: there is no legitimate reading of the scriptures which would enable any Christian, in any capacity (as a private citizen or public servant), to sign, read, and support a letter which celebrates sodomy and homosexuality as Tom Hayes has done.