

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

FRANKLIN TENNESSEE STAKE

February 1, 2024

Brother Riggs,

Thank you for your attendance at the membership council that was held on January 30th. We recognize the sacrifice in time that was required for you to be present.

This letter is to inform you in writing of the decision that was reached and shared with you on the 30th. The decision of the council was for the withdrawal of your membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints due to acts of apostasy. This decision went into effect on January 30th, 2023. As I mentioned at the conclusion of the council, I hope that you would chose to continue to attend Church and seek guidance as you work through this process. In light of that, with the outcome of this decision and the nature of the sin, the following privileges of membership have been withdrawn:

- You may not exercise the priesthood
- You may not partake of the sacrament or participate in the sustaining of officers
- You may not give a talk, lesson or prayer in Church
- You may not participate in class discussions or lead an activity in the Church
- You may not pay tithes and offerings
- You may not enter a temple or wear the temple garment

Brother Riggs, you have the opportunity to seek readmission by baptism. Although this would not normally take place within the first year, this is a real possibility and depends upon your desire to do so.

Because of your doubts of my personal worthiness or ability to judge I think it is important for you to know that each person in attendance at this council voiced, unsolicited, that they could not find the Spirit of Christ in your comments; but just the opposite. I have voiced to you on a number of occasions two important things: 1) if I have done anything that harmed you personally or hurt your testimony I apologize, 2) this is not a personal matter for me, seeking to do you harm, but a responsibility I have as part of my calling. The loss of your temple recommend and the loss of membership are an outcome of your actions.

I have known you from before this change all started in the last few years. Even though there were problems in your home and family, you carried with you a spirit of meekness, humility and

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

FRANKLIN TENNESSEE STAKE

faith; I would love to see the same spirit return to your life. In contrast, you now have allowed contention to be at the center of your decision making and statements, which allows for the adversary to influence your train of thought. You have sought for faults and suggested unrighteous actions of others, many of whom you have not ever met. You have set your mind to contend against the Church and its leaders and in so doing, affect the faith and progression of others. There is nothing to be found in the scriptures that would suggest to you that this course will lead to peace, joy, justification or exaltation. Lucifer has convinced you that your actions are noble, and that your actions are justified. He has blended truths with lies. An example would be: the priesthood you hold is real (true), you are justified and you are entitled in your actions *because of your priesthood* (lie). Lucifer recognizes your zeal, talents and gifts and has convinced you to use them in a way that is contrary to the manner in which Heavenly Father has established. You are not alone in this. By far, this is not the first time this has happened to one of Father's children. The solution is as easy as recognizing the misstep and turning. Others can counsel, guide and teach but only you can make the change.

Along with scriptures on the topic of contention, I would encourage you to view the video of a presentation given by Elder Ahmad S. Corbitt on October 4, 2022. The title of it is "How activism against the Church can blind and mislead valiant souls". Elder Corbitt does a great job in exposing ancient patterns used by Lucifer and how they can affect our discipleship. Satan's tactics have been the same from the beginning. I hope you will give space and serious consideration to the thought that you may have been deceived in the course of actions you have taken.

As I mentioned on Tuesday, I would welcome the opportunity to continue to meet with you.

You have the opportunity to appeal the decision of the membership council to the First Presidency. If you choose to, please let me know within the next month and I will begin the process.

Justin, those in the ward and stake that know you the most, love you the most. We miss the Spirit that you once carried. The stake presidency continues to pray for you and your family.

Sincerely,



James Steanson
President, Franklin TN Stake