

February 12, 2025

Hello CBC Truth Seekers!

Sunday, February 9th, the CBC board of directors handed out a letter from the connect center for people that had questions or complaints. In our opinion, their attempt to provide clarity and smooth over recent events with this letter fell short of that purpose and did not provide accurate details of why so many people are calling for a town-hall meeting and what has been transpiring over the past several months. What many have said is a 'lack of transparency' from the newly formed leadership is what prompted us to respond, in truth, regarding the ongoing current situation at Capo Beach Church.

In our passionate desire to shine light into what appears to be darkness that has overtaken our church home, we have dissected the board's letter and added honest background information as well as factual, defensible truths.

In His service,
CBC concerned and faithful members

These are the acronyms used in the document below:

'BOD' – Board of Directors:

Matt Whitlock, Bruce Jordan, Larry Nielsen, Larry Leisenring, Hal Baerg, John Moody

'EIC' – Elder Interface Committee:

Teresa Clark, Chris Dyer, Stuart Spencer, Randy Noe

CBC – Capo Beach Church

Please read our comments in red under the board's original comments in black:

"We are deeply saddened by the recent events that took place within our church—an environment we strive to maintain as a sanctuary of unity, love and peace. It is unacceptable that anyone, especially our children, youth, and visitors, had to witness such behavior."

We completely agree with the BOD's opening statement. The BOD should have included the congregation in any drastic changes being made to our church before they were implemented.

This is exactly the type of situation that warrants a town-hall style meeting. Instead, the BOD told the congregation how the future of the church they attend, learn from, and pay for is going to be run. Not one of the new leaders was willing to answer the question, "Where's Craig?"

"As a church, we are called to reflect a holy community – one committed to unity, openness, accountability, and submission to the Holy Spirit. We sincerely apologize for any pain or distress this incident may have caused."

Again, we agree and long for unity, openness, accountability, and submission to the Holy Spirit. Those are beautiful and powerful words. Sadly, what we have experienced is anything but unity, openness, and accountability.

When queried by the staff, church goers, and any dissenting viewpoint, the BOD has offered very little insight or dialogue, reflecting what many have called an utter lack of transparency.

The BOD has declined the invitation to meet with the congregation via a town-hall style meeting and have failed to respond to the majority of the emails addressed to them. They are unilaterally changing your church without any interest in your input as to the direction.

“To provide clarity, we want to share some background information regarding Sunday's announcement.

For some time, there have been compelling reasons for a necessary change in our leadership model in an effort to prepare for the future, enhance transparency, and foster greater collaboration, we have been diligently working to restructure our leadership. This decision was not made lightly but was reached through careful consideration and extensive prayerful discussions amongst the spiritual leaders and the church board.”

We are genuinely curious as to what this means.

“Prepare for the future?” CBC is financially solvent with a solid track record positively impacting the community and the world at large. At CBC, people are getting saved, addictions are being healed, people are deepening their knowledge of Jesus, and the youth are thriving. CBC has been an unwavering light in our community. Many of us have served this church and called this home for decades. We simply love it here! The future, until recently, looked amazing. We want to understand what needed to change and why? The old adage, “if it ain't broke, don't fix it” certainly applies here.

“Enhance transparency?” The BOD and new EIC, a total of 10 people, made drastic changes behind closed doors without seeking input from the congregation. This certainly would give the impression that they do not value or trust your input or that of the congregation, the people that attend CBC, worship at CBC and pay for CBC.

“Foster greater collaboration?” Great idea! Let's not have 10 people determine a new and vaguely defined direction for our church without input from the entire congregation. We believe that we are the church. In our opinion, the leaders should be serving the church, not pursuing their own agenda vetted in an echo chamber of agreement. We believe the church at large needs to weigh in and their voices be heard and prayerfully considered.

“The New Testament offers clear guidance on church, leadership, emphasizing the importance of a team of elders, including the pastor. This biblical principle is outlined in passages such as act one, Timothy one Peter and Titus.”

Our church has run this way with “a team of elders, including the pastor” for years. Until the Board's recent actions, CBC had many pastors and a team of about 25 Spiritual Leaders who have faithfully prayed and sought the Lord in all pertinent decisions. This team historically worked well together to weigh in on important church matters.

Now, it appears the BOD have decided to be a BOD led church. Matt threatened to leave CBC and start his own church stating he had the backing to do so. If the Board had simply said ‘We don't accept ultimatums. Goodbye Matt, we wish you well’, none of this would be happening. Instead the Board decided that they must keep Matt at any cost. As a result, the Board has taken actions to keep Matt, at the cost of terminating Craig and removing Spiritual Leaders who did not agree with the Boards actions, while continuing to decline the request of hundreds of congregants for a town-hall meeting. Our question is why?

“Over the past several months, we have engaged in numerous meetings – both in large groups and smaller discussions with Craig and Jeanne. We sought their input and guidance, hoping to

align our vision together. Our sincere intention was for Craig to be part of the new leadership model, but he declined to accept the change in the position offered by the board.”

Unfortunately, this is simply not accurate. The Board created a document with new job descriptions for Craig and Matt in a conclave meeting, then presented it to Craig on November 20, 2024. This document did not describe the new church model or refer to it. After the presentation of the new job descriptions document, the Board has not spoken to Craig and Jeanne about the vision nor the new leadership model.

The Board voted to promote Matt into the role of Senior Pastor and demote Craig to Executive Pastor. This new role required Craig to only interact with the CBC staff under Matt's guidance and greatly reduced his role with the congregation.

“Regrettably, due to Craig's continued refusal to adopt the decision of the Board of Directors, he was released from his position on Tuesday, February 4. This decision has been deeply painful and challenging for everyone involved.”

Whether it was January 21 or February 4 does not matter to the core issue that the Board terminated Craig without cause from the church he has faithfully served for nearly 50 years.

The Board voted Craig into the Executive Pastor role in November and on January 7th the Board put Craig on an immediate leave of absence without cause and stated that he would be terminated effective January 21, 2025. Matt called Craig during the leave and told him to stop coming to CBC. Craig requested a two-week extension to mediate and be in discussion with the BOD, however the BOD would only grant an extension if Craig and his family agreed not to come to CBC.

Being banned from the church that Craig and his family served faithfully for nearly 50 years was a deal breaker as one might imagine.

“We appreciate your understanding and support during this difficult time. Our commitment remains to lead our church in a way that honors God's will, and fosters a thriving, Christ centered community.”

This was once true, and we pray this will be restored in the coming seasons of CBC. Unfortunately, this statement does not ring true to many of us at the hands of the new / current leadership.

“We are also aware of a petition, requesting a town meeting to discuss this matter. However, in keeping with our commitment to confidentially and respecting Craig's privacy, we have decided to not hold such a meeting.”

The petition requesting a town-hall has over 350 submissions representing families, couples, and individuals in our congregation. There are no legal reasons a town-hall meeting cannot take place. Craig has nothing to hide and has said he would love to address this with the church family he loves so much. If the BOD's reason for not meeting is Craig's privacy, then that is a non-issue and we extend, again, an invitation to everyone at CBC including the 10 members of the BOD and EIC.

We are hopeful they will reconsider in good faith as they should be there to serve, listen, and partner with you, the faithful members of Capo Beach Church.

We are working on securing a venue and a date; however, it would be ideal and appropriate if the BOD were to allow this to happen at CBC. We await a response from them for this request.

Regardless, the town-hall meeting is in the planning process and will happen as soon as possible. EVERYONE will be invited, and we sincerely hope the BOD and the EIC will attend. At the meeting, we will speak truth and answer any questions we can with evidence to support those answers. Kindly prepare questions and concerns you may have.

Again, it's YOUR church...our Church. We deserve answers, transparency, and the truth concerning the future of CBC. We simply want to provide that opportunity and look forward to seeing the Lord's will accomplished.

"We continue to see God's guidance, trusting in his wisdom, strength, and direction. May we, as a church family, move forward together and faith, United, and his love and grace. In Christ, the Capo Beach Church Board of Directors."

We can all agree to this as a holistic church family, and not just for a select few.

Please continue to share this website/petition with others and petition this new leadership with your questions and concerns.

With much love and respect, may God bless you, your families and our church!

Concerned CBC Truth Seeking Members –

We love our congregation. This is why we are so intentional about truth and transparency being shown in the light. The truth is what can and will save our church.