

Letters to the Board at Capo Beach Church -

The following are four of many letters that have been sent to the Board of Directors at CBC. One of these four letters has received a response from a member of the CBC Board, the rest have gone unanswered.

Sent to the CBC Board

Never have I ever walked out of a church service feeling so dirty and disgusted. I left the place I go to find comfort, peace and guidance so completely disappointed and saddened today. There was no reason for that to be. This is 100% the fault of the board of directors for their incomprehensible lack of transparency and potentially lack of complete honesty.

I've been coming to this church for almost 30 years now off and on. This church has changed my life. I will say I have no specific special love for Craig Whittaker per say. He was a terrific guy who has given his life to help others. From my perspective he did a good job leading the church in both ministry and growth. But, my feelings here are not just because I was a huge Craig fan. As a member of the church who comes and contributes and learns weekly. A member who has watched this church flourish at the hands of Craig. This is the dirtiest most ill-conceived course of events I ever witnessed as it relates to a church.

Of course there is two sides to every story and I take that into account for sure. But, you have one side of this stating very clearly their explanation of the events that lead to the dismissal of Craig Whittaker. Then you have the other side giving some vague description of the events that seemed like deception rather than truth.

The boards presentation today was an abject disaster. They talk about we thought this and we think that. Not once did I hear a mention of the congregation. What did they think? What do they think now? I can tell you from the perspective of a parishioner, I love this church. I love how it's been run and I have great respect and appreciation for those who run it. But, I've had no problem with the way the church was run. I can tell you that many of the people I talked to after the service said the same.

I'm sure at this point you've all read what the other side is releasing. That said with the vague and nonsensical explanation that was given by the board in comparison I cannot rule out that what the board members are saying as either partial truth or completely false. If any of what the other side is saying is true I would suggest that the entire board resign and that Matt be asked to go explore his other options. This church was fine before Matt and it will be fine after Matt. I for one without a much better explanation of the events that led up to the dismissal of Craig cannot and will not be able to look at Matt the same way again. Sorry Matt you seemed like a nice guy... until today. Now you seem like a power hungry advocate for yourself. That for me either needs to be cleared up with a lot more transparency or I'm out. I can't go to a church that preaches one thing and doesn't follow what they preach. Someone yelled Judas at the service I was at. Frankly due to your poor presentation that moniker doesn't seem too far off comparatively.

This whole thing has literally ruined the peace found in CBC. For a group of alleged leaders to make such big decisions without the blessing of the congregation that supports them seems like an extremely naïve and frankly stupid decision. I know for a fact that the vast majority of the congregation that walked out today left with an awful feeling in their stomach. You just wrecked my church. You just made my church dirty. You just betrayed our trust.

Of course if there was maleficence then your actions would be warranted in getting rid of Craig. It would be understandable to not discuss specifics in a public forum. But, even if there was, your handling has left your parishioners feeling horrible. That is not what church leadership does.

No matter what, if you wanted to lose parishioners, then you've done perfectly. If you wanted to lose the trust of your parishioners, than you've done perfectly. If you wanted to sew discord and distrust, you've done perfectly. Outside of that there is not much done right here. This was a catastrophic failure on the part of the church leadership whatever the real truth is. People who make such bad decisions don't deserve to be in power representing people who do not agree with them.

I can say with absolute certainty that if any of what the other side is saying is true and the leadership sticks to the path they are on, you will undoubtedly lose a fair amount from your flock. If that is acceptable collateral damage in your refocusing the path of the church, I for one want nothing to do with your dirty and horrible church. A church which at this moment seems to be led by people who do not share my sense of what's right and what's wrong.

No matter what the truth, shame on you for your disastrous handling of these events. At this moment I feel embarrassed to be a parishioner of this church. That really hurts to say but, it's the truth.

Sincerely,

Brad Darr

Dear CBC Board & Spiritual Leaders,

Like so many others, I am very upset about what is taking place within our church!

I have been a proud member of Capo Beach Church for over 30 years. There have been many transitions during this time and the church stood together unified in Christ. But unfortunately, this is not one of those times. I have never seen such a blatant disregard for a congregation's feelings and lack of support.

Craig has always been a rock and positive influence for the church as a whole and never wavering. This all seems very wrong. But we cannot comment on what transpired because the CBC board does not think we as a congregation should have all the facts and access to a safe forum where questions can be addressed. With this lack of communication and consideration, the church has created so much chaos. It would have been impossible to bring us all together for a spiritual service. Instead, we were all left feeling deceived by our church, by Matt and the Elders. It appears as though the church has no regard for how the congregation would feel about these drastic changes and any fallout that comes from it. How could you have expected anything else with the way this was handled!

Capo Beach Church has been my family and a safe place for me to attend and just go and be with God. Now it feels so tarnished by deceit. At a time in our world where there is so much doubt and turbulence, we need to have a sanctuary of love, compassion and respect. What kind of shepherd is our church and the leaders, when you cannot keep the flock together and the message feels as though you are willing to let all of us go?

Please respond to the consideration needed to all that want answers and please respond to my email!

Patty Kosky

Dear Capo Beach

I am responding to the events happening in our church from the holy ground of the broken heart. This church has been my home for the past 50 years. I have watched the changes, the growth, the challenges, prayed for the leadership, prayed for healings. I have watched the children grow up here, I have gone to funerals, weddings. I have volunteered in every department and ministry over these decades. I have grown in the love of Jesus for so many people and have trusted in our Great God for the integrity of leadership and Shepherding of our little flock.

My heart is breaking right now for the slander and insinuation being aimed at Craig and the disregard for him as one who loves the flock. For Craig to be silenced, when the people asking questions are told he doesn't want to speak to his flock, you know that is a complete falsehood. Jesus would never treat him with this lack of respect. Scripture gives specific guidelines on how this situation should be handled, which obviously has not happened. That Sunday morning charade where Craig's absence was glaring raised even more questions. But the main question is "How is Craig being loved well in this change in leadership?" "Because they lead my people astray, saying "Peace," when there is no peace, because when a flimsy wall is built they cover it with whitewash, therefore, tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall..." Ezekiel 13:10

You know God will expose the way things really are no matter how many elders are lying to the people in the hallway. It's my understanding of an audit to try to find something on Craig, so preposterous, if not costly \$30,000, are our tithes being used to dig up dirt that won't be found? You know every department submits their budget for review.

I have always stayed in our church, my home, with all these people who have been "the Craig lovers" who seem to be slowly done away with now. I am not just a Craig lover, I have loved whomever God has chosen to bring through our doors. Everyone of these people, human & flawed, myself included. Yet, I watched the smooth change when Chuck left with honor & dignity. I watched as Peter Jon became ill & left with honor & dignity. Craig would fly up & visit him as he was dying. His shepherd til the end. That is what our church has always been, we love! But now, look how our church has been taken under siege this Sunday. It was horrifying how people I have known for years wouldn't even look at us as they left the stage.

Where was Craig? Outside walking around the building praying for the flock he loves. I asked Craig what he was going to do. He told of Solomon and the baby being brought before him by the 2 mothers. He said, I don't want my church torn in half. Please let the truth come out and take a look at the common denominator of the chaos. The word is clear that judgement begins in the house of the Lord. Whenever someone goes out from our church the spiritual leaders pray over them & bless them, where is that for Craig? Again, how are you loving Craig? "Search me God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23 With Heartfelt Love

~ Sue BIBEE

To the Elders and/or board of Capo Beach Church,

My husband and I have been attending here since 1982 or 1983.

We weren't able to attend on Sunday the 2nd of February, so we watched the service at home.

At the end of the service, Dan Graham got up and said “ I have an important message and that we are all brothers and sisters here.....” then it got cut off.

I wanted to call the church and ask what that was about, but I didn't. We went to church on the 9th of February and Matt apologized for something that happened after service. It seemed like a sad and unfortunate event.

We were not told what that was, and yet we did know something happened that affects us greatly. So we were glad to have a letter from church to read for explanation and collected it from the Connect Center. I read it on the way home and now we have more questions than answers.

The Board's and “leaders” letter states there was a conflict between them and Craig and Jeanie about “changing the leadership model in an effort to prepare for the future.” It states you wanted to “enhance transparency and greater collaboration” which are just great statements that mean nothing, but avoidance.

Craig and Jeanie have been the anchor of this Congregation/Stockholders since Calvary Chapel first occupied this structure. Craig guided the Stockholders through the Chuck Smith change. The loss of support from Calvary Chapel, the loss of Peter John, which is very similar to this, to bringing a new teaching pastor on board. If there was a difference of opinion between the the Board and “leaders”, that difference needs to have been “transparent” and brought to the Congregation/Stockholders; the people who provide the financial support for Capo, and an open discussion taken place and the Congregation/Stockholder could hear both sides, and make a decision. This wasn't done.

The Board of Directors are unknown to the majority of the Congregation/Stockholders. They do not publicly appear and provide a state of Capo. They do not provide any input to the Congregation/Stockholders, or a vision for the future of Capo. The letter the Board provided the Congregation, and Matt's recent attempt to explain it, was a cause for us to only want to be included more so in the transparency and openness of it as the congregation that we are.

The Board's failure to bring this issue forward to the Congregation/Stockholders for their input is not helpful to any of us. Their decision seems to have been made in secret, without “collaboration” or input from us which leads me to doubt our support for this new direction.

Your stated commitment to openness and accountability will hopefully be true and the Board will speak publicly to the Congregation to help to understand this situation. I understand Craig's privacy is involved, and so will honor that, but we would like to hear what and why he disagreed with this direction, since he got us here; a vibrant, giving and serving Body.

We can contact him ourselves, but we don't know how to bring him into this after “he resigned”. It's regrettable that you decided to make this decision without calling a meeting of the Congregation to discuss these issues with us.

We feel betrayed, left hanging and confused by such a major decision affecting this Congregation and the lack of helpful information in the letter of explanation the Board and “leaders” provided.

This is our email to contact my husband and myself if you're willing to respond.

Thank you,

Mike and Theresa Welch