

# Trinity CHURCH | CREC

May 13th, 2025

## **RE: Erasure of Membership**

William Le,

When you became a member at Trinity Church you swore “in the name of God to endeavor to support the ministry of this church in its worship and work, submitting to its government and discipline, while pursuing its purity and peace.” You made this commitment before God and the congregation of Trinity Church. But you have not in good faith upheld your vow. Instead you have chosen to set yourself at odds with our leadership, making it clear that you will not submit to our governance. This contradicts not only the vow you freely made, but what the Holy Spirit Himself calls you to when He says: “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:17).

You have demonstrated this opposition in two ways. Last year, you did so by refusing to submit to the arbitration decision after giving your word that you would. After you rejected the decision, you proceeded to register a complaint against our Session with Presbytery. This complaint was appropriately dismissed by PM Toby Sumpter, who reprimanded you by reminding you to submit to what you yourself promised to do.

The second instance came out of the difficult season involving the Bryan family. We understand that you, just like other congregants, have had questions and concerns stemming from all of this. Throughout this season, we made ourselves available and we labored to be transparent, while not neglecting the discretion proper to pastoral work. In all matters, we have labored to act faithfully before God, in wisdom and in love, and in accordance with the authority entrusted to us by God and by Trinity Church. We understand that congregants may disagree with the Session in some of our decisions. Congregants are certainly allowed to have their disagreements, and they are welcome to share them with us. We do not reprove you for having disagreements. But we do reprove you for the manner in which you have handled your disagreements.

As other congregants have done, you too should have respectfully and charitably approached the Elders with your questions and concerns, sought clarity of understanding, and, at the end of the day, it was your duty to submit to our governance, remembering that we stand accountable before God. Instead you chose to inappropriately broadcast your complaints and suspicions in our February Head of Household meeting. When we spoke with you about your behavior after this, you refused to acknowledge your fault, and instead you made it clear that you have no intention of

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fulfilling your membership vows by seeking peace with us and coming under our governance. In addition to this, you have willfully left off worshipping with us.

In light of your behavior and your expressed intentions, and in accordance with our Constitution (Articles V.B, I.G), we are erasing you from membership. As of today, you are no longer a member at Trinity Church. Should you wish to reinstate your membership, we require that you repent of your dishonorable behavior toward us and that you seek peace by acknowledging your sin, asking our forgiveness, and renewing your commitment to come under our governance.

Under Christ Jesus, the Chief Shepherd of His Flock,

Elders Bob Dowers, Mark Bennon, Ed MacBurnie, Ken Trotter  
Pastor Chase Fluhart