

Scott Phelps & Barry Slabaugh

On June 18, 2013, along with Dan Marquardt, we brought several concerns to the Elder Board of Harvest Bible Chapel, in keeping with the biblical requirement of two or three witnesses. This fundamental principle requiring the verification of testimony is taught by Moses, (Dt 19.15), Jesus (Mt 18.16), and Paul (2 Ct 13.1, 1 Tm 5.19).

With Dan's resignation letter now made public, we recognize our obligation to corroborate his testimony in accordance with this biblical principle. We now come forward to verify Dan's statements. Dan Marquardt is a godly man of integrity and character and he has provided a truthful account of the events he records in their proper context. We share his concerns and the three of us are in complete agreement on these matters. (Scott was not present for the January, 2013 meeting at which the budget was approved, however Barry and Dan were present and so provide the two witnesses necessary.)

We also confirm that when we requested a line-item budget, we were denied and rebuked. We were told that our request could get us removed from the elder board and that if we made such a request again, we would certainly be removed. These comments demonstrated to us the authoritarian practices and lack of transparency that we sought to confront and served to facilitate our resignations. In his letter, Dan stated that: "*the assertion that Harvest is an Elder-led church is not reality.*" This example is one of many demonstrating the truth of Dan's claim.

It has been our intention to fulfill our responsibilities as elders according to Scripture, ever mindful that we are ultimately accountable to Christ alone (2 Ct 5.10). We have prayerfully and consistently sought the good of our pastor, the good of our church, and most importantly, the glory of God. We continue to pray for Harvest to these ends.

We have not been eager to bring these matters forward and have remained silent until now. However, since our resignations we have heard from many members as well as former members, elders and staff. The consistency of the testimonies we have heard has only bolstered our concerns. Therefore, after much prayer, godly counsel, and study of Scripture (Lv 5.1) we believe that we have a responsibility to speak the truth and provide clarity on these matters to the best of our ability. We would appreciate your prayers for the three of us that God might grant us wisdom as we consider how we might best provide a more detailed explanation regarding our resignations to those whom we, having served as elders, now owe an account.

For the Glory of God,

Scott Phelps & Barry Slabaugh