



# TUESDAY, OCT. 12

Dear MBC Family -

We hope this update finds you doing well in Christ. If you were unable to join us at the end of September for our Congregational Meeting, you can still find the recording and a summary report at [mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting](https://mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting). By God's grace, people are coming to Christ, new members are joining the church, we are in a very healthy financial position, exciting ministries have re-launched, and new churches are starting in our city and around the world through our church family! We as Elders, together with our Lead Pastors and Location Pastors, are completely unified as we move together into new days of ministry and mission at MBC.

In the midst of all this gospel work, we want you to be aware that in accord with God's Word (specifically Matthew 18:15-20; see below) and our church's constitution (specifically Article 5, Section 6; see also below), we are earnestly praying and actively working for biblical peace and restoration with a small group of people inside and outside of MBC who continue to work against the mission, teaching, and leadership of the church.

As we have shared in previous updates, members of this group have disrupted church services and meetings (including, in one instance, while the congregation was taking communion). Members of the group gained unauthorized access to a church membership list containing members' private information, disseminated that private information, and then sent unsolicited communications to our church body. Leaders and members of this group have communicated—and continue to communicate—untrue or misleading information through online meetings, public forums, and media outlets, such as patently false claims that church leaders intended to sell the Tysons location property to Muslims for use as a mosque.

You may also remember from previous updates that six individuals who are a part of this group filed a suit in secular court against the church (since the original filing, one of the plaintiffs has withdrawn from the lawsuit). In light of this ongoing litigation, and more importantly out of a desire to respond biblically in all situations, we are prayerfully exercising discernment in communication with and about this group as we pursue a path of biblical peace and reconciliation. We have asked several times for leaders of this group to meet with us. You can [see here our most recent invitation](#) as Elders to pursue restoration with leaders of the group through dispute resolution mediated by an independent trained Christian conciliator. Unfortunately, just as we have received no response to previous invitations, we also received no response to this most recent invitation.

In addition, multiple church members and leaders from four of our five locations have raised security concerns regarding inappropriate and disturbing behavior by one specific individual in this group. We were made aware that this individual has been targeting various MBC locations as part of this broader effort to work against the church, which ultimately led to contact at one of our locations by members of our First Response Team and a local police officer. Based upon recommendations of the Location Pastor, the First Response Team members, and our Security Director, we notified this individual that for security reasons he was not permitted to attend MBC locations at this time.

Because many of the statements made by members and leaders of this group (including the specific individual referenced above) are either untrue or misleading, you may have questions about a particular statement (or for that matter, any other aspect of our church life). If so, please continue to go to [mcleanbible.org/elderupdates](https://mcleanbible.org/elderupdates) for ongoing updates as well as answers to frequently asked questions, or contact us at [questions@mcleanbible.org](mailto:questions@mcleanbible.org), and church leaders will be glad to contact you or meet with you and discuss your questions or concerns.

In the days ahead, as we continue to carry out Jesus' instructions to us in accord with Matthew 18 and with our church's constitution, we ask you to pray with us for biblical peace and reconciliation. On behalf of our church family, we also continue to ask members of this group to meet with leaders of the church for the purpose of biblical reconciliation.

Even as we inform you about these matters, please know that our primary focus is on moving forward together in our mission as a church. We are keenly aware that many of you are walking through all sorts of significant challenges in your lives and families, and we know that so many people in our community are experiencing similar challenges without the peace, love, help, and hope of Jesus. There is much gospel work to be done all around us! So brothers and sisters, let's gather together every Sunday, and invite others to join us, to behold Jesus in the Gospel of Mark as the One who alone can meet our deepest needs and satisfy our deepest desires. Then let's scatter into smaller settings like Church Groups and Churchwide Ministries where we can care for each other like family, grow together in Christ, and make disciples together on mission in a weary and hurting world.

Love in Christ,

MBC Elders

*"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." -Matthew 18:15-20*

*Purity of doctrine and conduct is the Lord's positive expectation of His Church, and lack of it defiles and weakens any church. Therefore, members of this Church who shall endorse doctrinal positions in disagreement with the doctrinal statement of McLean Bible Church (Article II), or shall engage in conduct that is a reproach to Christ and a derogatory reflection upon the reputation of His Church, shall be publicly dismissed from the Church fellowship (Matthew 18:15-18). Upon repentance and demonstration of the fruit of repentance (Luke 3:8a), an erring member shall be joyfully restored to fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:5-11). The church shall be responsible for the discipline of regular attendees as well as formal members. -Article 5, Section 6 of the MBC Constitution*