

*In Nomine Jesu*

## Rev. Stephen H. Funck

3201 Hiss Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21234-4724

SignDoveSF@mac.com H - 410-661-1763 C - 443-813-8077 <http://thesignofconcord.com>

Ash Wednesday February 10, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod:

Sent by Post and Email to:

Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger, President; Rev. Dr. David R. Maack, 1st Vice President; Rev. William A. Harmon, 2nd Vice President; Rev. William D. Beyer, 3rd Vice President; Rev. John F. Kassouf, Secretary; Mr. Thomas DeMik, Treasurer; Dr. Dina Vendetti, Commissioned Member, Chair; DCE Paula Weiss, Commissioned Member; Mr. C. P. Coyner, Lay Member, Janis McDaniels, Lay Member; Ms. Elizabeth Elgert, Lay Member; Dr. James Schroeder, Lay Member; Russel Boraas, Lay Member.

Since the Email and Postal addresses are not available for some, would you please forward this to them.

Servant Leaders for the Lord of the Church,  
Grace and Peace - Concord,

I am not happy to send this to you. I have prayed and considered this for some time, but I have not been able to find a better action to take. The Board of Directors of the Southeastern District has responsibilities. December 16th I wrote President Denninger and have not received a response.

Most of you, all of you, should be aware that I have written two Public Letters to the Church, I have requested conversation, reconciliation without avail. It appears that there is no intention of the President to make an effective answer. I did not want to post the first letter. It was only after appeals and warnings were ignored. The second was posted a week after the District President received it and ignored it. He gave me the impression, he was comfortable with it being posted. I would have much rather the second letter report reconciliation and be signed by us both. I do not want to post a third Public Letter continuing the complaint. Since this is in the public arena, there will be need to post another Public Letter announcing resolution.

The Church of Christ is about the Gospel of reconciliation. Ministers of the Gospel by word and action represent Christ, by the power of His Spirit extend the Good News of His love, forgiveness and restoration to the injured, the lost, to bring them into fellowship with their Lord and the community of the faithful - the Church.

Since there are many ways to make things worse, it is imperative to have a format that facilitates reconciliation instead of deepening the problem. Dr. Denninger had suggestions I replied that I did not consider useful. He did not respond to my invitations. I will not participate in what is unlikely to be productive.

*The Sign of Concord*

*Soli Deo Gloria*

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,  
but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15

Scripture, scholars, civil judges agree. Secret decision based on secret information is wrong. There is extensive literature showing this to be violation of the Eighth Commandment. The individual must be informed of the accusation, hear the evidence, be given opportunity to defend himself, explain, apologize, refute. When repentance and amendment is offered, forgiveness is required. Factual claims must be supported by evidence. Unsupported opinion, feeling, memory is not sufficient. Punishment must be appropriate for the offender and offense, not be excessive, or too lenient. Scripture shows the human mind is fundamentally flawed. Indeed, eyewitness testimony is a common way to convict innocent people.

In May SED is hosting Ambassadors of Reconciliation. That sounds good but if the people of the SED follow leadership practices that create conflict and reject reconciliation, the conference is useless. LCMS Reconcilers have excellent written policies. In my experience I did not see any attempt to put them in practice. A second major problem, I think actually the cause of the first, is secret proceedings and the binding of the plaintiff to secrecy. Secrecy is mandated about and for penitent sinners, so they can be integrated back into the church. It is not there to silence the victim when their cry is ignored, no attempt is made for reconciliation, the perpetrator is impenitent, indeed harm is deepened by the deaf ear of Justice in the church.

Some of you know my wife Lynne. What do you think? She was never put on any list for teaching, substitute or regular. Neither was I put on any list, anywhere. In effect signs were hung over us for all to see: rejected, unworthy. Would you consider that “no harm done”? For what crimes was that proper punishment? We were never informed of any. My mother refused to see me on her death bed, since I brought shame on the family name.

In the name of one called by God to proclaim His Love for all,



Stephen h. Funck

attached letters

See also [http://thesignofconcord.com/Pastoral\\_Ministry.php](http://thesignofconcord.com/Pastoral_Ministry.php) <https://youtu.be/AUG0FCbv8Hg>

Date: December 16, 2015 at 9:30 AM EST

Peace, Concord, John,

They are God's gifts, may we seek them with the wise in the infant Redeemer. May the Lord of the Church bless and guide your work in His service this Holy season.

I have been praying and thinking how to respond. "I feel it unwise to include others from the SED at this point. . . . if any want to add anything, have them put it in writing." (" " indicate this was in a prior letter) Lynne knew David from his father's Sunday dinner table. My family and his have been involved through the history of the LCMS. We both thought David should have recused himself. I only included him in my mailing because you had first.

I suspect a root of our conflict lies in the words, attitudes, to which you have been exposed. We need to meet in a setting where you can form your own opinions. I wonder if you have looked at any of the documents I sent. You may think the video is too long but it puts flesh on the person. There is no hope for reconciliation if you are not interested in understanding. I sought to understand what has been going on. It remains hidden.

I still do not understand your intention in meeting. It would be helpful if you sent a note with the items you wish to cover and any supporting documentation. I can rearrange my schedule to your convenience. The location to be spiritually conducive to good. Our wives have wide reputations for the spirit of grace. Their presence would be power, influence, for reconciliation. If not our home then the office at Living Water is available.

Enjoy love and joy,  
Stephen H. Funck

Date: December 8, 2015 at 12:48:52 PM EST

Dear Stephen,

God's grace and peace be yours in Christ Jesus!

Thank you for your email of October 28. I'm now in my office after traveling much of October and November.

This is now my opportunity to catch up to correspondence and fulfill other obligations needing my attention.

I was disappointed you could not come to the District Office for our meeting since you had expressed concerns about being excluded from District mailings. I thought you would enjoy the opportunity to meet the support staff, see the communications operation first-hand, and learn how it works — all as background to the concern you identified.

I've invited David Maack to be present for the meeting since communication from you has included David, along with others. David has graciously opened up his office as a meeting place. His invitation is helpful as it allows you to hear directly from the SED Support Staff through electronic, audio-visual means to discuss the communications to churches and church workers. Since you are not coming to the SED Offices, we'll do our best to bring members of the SED office to you. For that reason we will not meet at your house or Living Water. If you wish Lynne to be present for the meeting, that would be wonderful.

The address of our meeting place is: Lutheran Mission Society 601 Hammonds Lane Brooklyn Park, MD 21225

Two dates have been identified which are open on David's schedule. If neither of those dates work we will look further out into the future: Monday, December 21, 2015 @ 10 AM or Monday, January 26, 2016, @ 10 AM.

Steve, please let us know which of those dates you prefer. If neither of them work for you, let us know and we'll look farther out on into February.

Blessings,

John R Denninger President