

In Nomine Jesu

TIME LINE

What led up to the current situation?

This is in response to recent continuation of long term injuries.

June 1, 2016

May 6, 2016 Ambassadors of Reconciliation Conference

April 4-7 Professional Church workers Conference on reconciliation

March 21, 2016 letter from Dr. Denninger

March 14, 2016 letter to SED BOD

March 9, 2016 Meeting with Dr. Denninger.

February 10, 2016 Letter to Board of Directors SED, emails of 12/8 and 16 attached.

Posted to Web.

December 16, email reply. No response.

December 8, email from President Denninger referring to my email of Oct. 28th. offering 2 new dates to meet.

December 4, Public Letter II sent and posted to web.

November 27, email draft of Public Letter II sent to President Denninger. No response.

October 28, email reply from Tarifa, Spain. No response. Posted on web site with Public Letter II.

October 23, email from secretary about meeting including VP David Maack with 3 dates suggested.

October 16, Message from secretary about setting up appointment. Reply that communication be documentable email or written.

End September or so I started to get some general emails from SED. I am still not sure I am included with all other Ordained Ministers. It feels like I am excluded from some.

September 13, 2015

Spring 2015, I thought I had not received some Southeastern District (SED of the LCMS) emails. When I got nothing about the SED convention, I was sure of it. I called a friend and had the mailings forwarded to me. I was puzzled, very strange. Knowing how email lists are made, I knew it could not have been an accident. Why remove a rostered minister. What had I done?

Suspicions. There has been many years of injury from the SED. Finally I asked Rev. Donald S. Schaefer, the SED Northern Region Mission & Ministry Facilitator to meet with me. I recorded the conversation. <https://youtu.be/AUG0FCbv8Hg> I knew he had little understanding of the history. Much of the meeting recounted what had happened

over nearly 40 years and the devastation that caused. I suspected SED District President (DP) John Denninger also was not aware of the background and that whatever he has been told was slanted to the point of falsehood. Rev. Schaefer gave the video and a letter to the President. When I did not get a response, I sent an email to his wife appealing for consideration. Since I have not heard anything or been restored to the SED email list, I know that action was deliberate. I wrote, "I am working up a letter for circuit and to post on the web." http://thesignofconcord.com/Pastoral_Ministry.php

Understand I do not like writing this or posting it with a little of the background documentation to the web. "Let sleeping dogs lie." Why do they have to continue on old injuries? I repeatedly said I would be happy to leave and start over. They could have sent me anywhere in the country. No door I knocked on would open. Jesus said: "tell it to the church". What has happened to me has been done to others. I personally know a number of Pastors and Teachers given similar treatment. It is proper to make plain, document, what is done. Many rumors, injuries create ripples that spread. Most try to avoid seeing, hearing, talking about evil. They get upset when they are forced to confront it. Most will not read this far. Especially those who understand, know it is true and want to keep their eyes shut!

The letter posted 09/10/2001 Summary 1987-2001 refers to item #s that were included in an appeal. Those items are available upon request. It is a good quick overview of the history.

I became Staff Chaplain at Baltimore City Detention Center, a Maryland State Employee in 1996. For 16 years I had little contact with the SED. As Staff Chaplain I was selected as Maryland State Employee of the Year. One of several, it was very unusual to be given to a civilian - non uniformed person. Before that I was Religious Volunteer of the Year, out of over 300 volunteers. I was selected by black leadership to serve in a black facility over qualified black candidates. I asked why? They said because they had seen I was good during my four years as a volunteer.

There was one notable event during those years. There was a disagreeable meeting with SED President Scherer over old issues. He complained about what I had done. I replied, I was exercising my right as husband, father, and referred to the movie "Braveheart". His lord challenged him for complaining that the lord had raped his wife on their wedding night (legal at that time). The man replied, he was exercising his right as husband and cut him in two with his ax. A week later Scherer decided I had threatened him and placed me on restricted status. He publicly announced to the entire LCMS that I was unavailable for call as pastor anywhere for serious cause - moral, heretical. My

mother refused to see me on her death bed because I had brought shame on the family name. I appealed Scherer's action. We met three other DPs in an unrecorded session. The 09/10/2001 Summary 1987-2001 was written for that. The ByLaws clearly state a DP may not rule in a matter to which he was a party. Even though Scherer's action was clear violation of ByLaw (and of all public ethic - Judges do not rule on their own case) the three DPs supported him. When I reported this to the LCMS President, there was no reply. Some months later I received a letter saying my restricted status was removed. An action that I do not think eliminated any of the damage done. The official position of the LCMS, therefore, is that, if in a conversation the DP is displeased by the language of a minister, the DP can destroy the man's professional career. In effect, the official conduct of a LCMS District President is not limited by Constitution, ByLaw or by public civil ethics.

When I was volunteering as Chaplain, some years prior, I asked my congregation to extend a "call" to me as a Correctional Chaplain without compensation. Calvary Lutheran Church did so with the agreement of the DP. This was important to me since a minister without position may be removed from the official roster. I feared I would be removed. I was thrilled, when the DP made the long trip to officiate the installation. I had invited him as a courtesy, never expecting him to accept. It was one of his last official acts. I was on top of the world. His replacement, the new DP, was my friend, pastor of Calvary, Roy Maack. He had patiently heard and encouraged me during years of pain.

That joy was killed. Part of the understanding was that as SED-LCMS Correctional Chaplain without compensation, I could ask for support from local churches. When I did so I was told I could not refer to my call from Calvary (I was under Calvary's supervision) also later told I could not refer to my position in the SED-LCMS. I was very poor. We received food baskets from Calvary for years. On rare occasions I would be invited to lead worship, half the time outside the SED. Compensation was effectively taxed at 40% due to impact of EIC and other programs. I asked if I could have a "pass through" account whereby the check would go to a church and then to me tax free as "Housing Allowance" - denied by all I asked. Also I had expenses, I asked if I could use a church sales tax exemption number - denied by all I asked. Maryland Bible Society was amazed I was forced to pay sales tax on \$30,000 in Bibles for distribution at the Jail. After a few years I stopped sending out letters to the local SED churches seeking support. They cost more than they returned. I wondered if "word" had been put out not to assist me.

It would have been easy to go to another area. Ministers move across country all the time. I know some who were moved because they created messes. One uncle was

Education Exec in Northern Illinois, another well known circuit counselor in the LCMS headquarters city, St. Louis, father-in-law was a leading layman in NJ District. Finally the uncle in N. Ill. told me “word” had been put out across the country. I was chained here. I knew such word could be changed. The SED might encourage my departure. There would be no hope if I gave up. I also knew that if I was publicly obnoxious, confrontational, I would poison any chance. I quietly and respectfully did what I could.

Massive change! Our daughter was denied consideration for scholarship to Baltimore Lutheran School. She would be forced to attend the local city school that was in the news weekly for serious problems. We were too poor to afford tuition. My wife had taught 2nd grade at Calvary for 15 years. They had free tuition for members and we contributed well. The principal was the wife of BLS headmaster, members of Calvary. They knew us. Children of local pastors were given free tuition to BLS but I was not a local pastor. I can turn the other cheek when struck. I am father, ordered by God to defend my children. See 11-28-94 BLS Malzahn. Lack of response, led to public letters before minimal aid was granted. Those public letters became the basis for charges against me. There is much that occurred between that time and 2001 with too much documentation for this. If needed, requested, it can be made available.

The item posted LCMS Lawsuit Oakland Congregation in one sense has no bearing on my situation. It does document “Official” actions of the LCMS that are unknown to the pastors and churches. \$1.5 Million over a number of years was spent to seize a congregation’s property. One month before trial, LCMS dropped the case. It would have revealed who authorized the suit and where the money came from. Both are never mentioned. By the way, I read some time back that 1/3 of LCMS receipts came from “special sources”. That was explained as income from the sale of closed churches. When Synod and District look at a church, they pay attention to the value of the property to them. They are supported by closing churches. Some churches have a hard time getting names of ministers to serve them. “None are available”. They are not told about the long lists of ministers seeking positions. Without a minister they close and the building sold.

There are items about Disaster at Faith. My congregation and ministry were devastated by the actions of the DP. That may have initiated the later problems. I do not think he regards this as one of the finer points in his ministry. It is very significant that he approved my call as Correctional Chaplain and especially that he made the long trip to officiate at my installation. I am saddened the account is unfavorable to him. The reasons for including it are to show the original situation and because it reveals my attitude and approach.

The Church is about the Good News of forgiveness and commanded by the Lord of the Church to pass it on to all, especially to those who suffer. I forgive those who harmed me and my family, deliberately and out of ignorance. What forgiveness has been extended to me? I have not even been accused of something so I can to repent. What can I do to be restored to good graces? While I have and do forgive, no one has accepted that forgiveness. Rather they seem upset by the offer. To accept forgiveness does mean admitting error. It implies apology, amendment of damage, if possible, will be made. If there is no willingness to admit error, repent, apologize, restore, forgiveness is rejected. All in hell are forgiven, Christ died for all who repent and turn to Him. All who accept God's offer of restoration, amend their lives and worship their Savior.

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first posted September 13, 2015

“If you want Peace, seek Justice for all“

Walk in Righteousness, depending on the Love and Spirit of Christ, as His servant.

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