

## **BOMS Determination of David Whitney**

"Thank you for taking the time and effort to meet with BOMS last week. We appreciated being able to visit with you and Joseph in person.

The deliberations of BOMS that followed our time with you revealed that we are concerned with your behavior, in that there is an inconsistency between your recently affirmed commitment to unity and cooperation in the EFCA and your interaction with and response to the EFCA East district leaders.

But even more so, and related to that behavior, is our question regarding your (that is, you and the Cornerstone congregation) "fit" or compatibility or congruence with the EFCA. This is a congruence that goes beyond agreement with the Statement of Faith and includes ethos, culture, emphasis of ministry, and a ready posture of peaceableness in interactions with other EFCA leaders. It is an observable congruence that yields an affirmative answer to the question, "Are you Free Church?" It includes advocating for true righteousness and justice in the EFCA by sowing that harvest in peace (James 3:18).

Accordingly, our deliberations yielded the following outcomes. In keeping with the accountability implied in your Certificate of Ordination, we insist that you take the initiative to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the EFCA East leaders that you are truly an EFCA church. If you fail to adequately display a commitment to maintaining the unity of the Free Church family of churches, we will regretfully encourage the district (BOMS does not have authority over churches) to explore disaffiliation of Cornerstone from the EFCA. The district is, of course, free to do this at any time, but BOMS is eager to see you follow through with such evidence as:

- a) confessing your contribution to strained or broken relationships, where they exist, and seeking reconciliation;
- b) sincere and hearty cooperation with the EFCA East leaders, such as working out a mutually satisfactory solution to the impasse over the information that they have been seeking from the church;
- c) and especially, teaching and preaching that reflects the balance of the whole counsel of God, and is sound in the proportion it devotes to addressing current socio-political-cultural issues.

We are hopeful that by God's grace, our long-standing partnership in the gospel can continue with deeper mutual confidence and even greater fruitfulness in the future.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. David Linde