

July 2, 2026

LLC Board of Directors
c/o Arvin Pirness
Laestadian Lutheran Church
10911 Highway 55, Suite 203
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Re: Response to the Board's June 26, 2026 letter; 2026 LLC Annual Meeting (July 3, 2026)

God's Peace.

Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC"), by its appointed delegate, has received the Board's letter of June 26, 2026. We respond briefly, reserving all rights.

1. New business and equal treatment. Article II, Section 8 makes "New business" a standing item of the Annual Meeting, and Section 6 gives the Delegates authority over all matters properly before the meeting. Nothing authorizes the Board to refuse a delegate's proposed new business. The Board declines to add CCLLC's three items while acknowledging that another delegate intends to move under Section 9 concerning CCLLC. Those items cannot be treated differently. CCLLC will present its three items as new business under Section 8, and requests that its June 19, 2026 submission be promptly distributed to the Delegates together with this letter.

2. Pre-arranged, off-agenda treatment without notice to the Delegates. You state in your letter:

[i]t has come to the attention of the LLC that a delegate from a congregation within the Southwest Mission Area intends to present a motion stating that Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church is no longer acting in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and decisions of the LLC and requesting that the delegates initiate the process set forth in Article II, Section 9 of the LLC Bylaws regarding the possible expulsion of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church from membership in the LLC.

This is a bold lie. As you are well aware, the recommendation to remove CCLLC did not arise spontaneously and is instead the product of a coordinated, hidden effort between the Southwest Area Mission Committee and the LLC office over a period of years. More recently, following the Southwest Area's February 2026 meeting, the Committee resolved to recommend CCLLC's removal, prepared a draft notification letter, and submitted it to the LLC office for review and comment (seeking the LLC office's approval shows the effort was directed, coordinated, and sanctioned from the top); **the Committee's chairman then discussed the matter directly with Daniel Kumpula and Arvin Pirness.** In the course of that coordination, you noted that placing the recommendation on the formal meeting agenda "could raise a number of questions in congregations who [had not] been part of [the Southwest Area's] meetings over the past few years," and it was therefore decided that the request would instead be made "from the floor," with

the meeting chairman to be instructed to reserve a speaking turn for its proponents. In other words, you intend to spring this on the Delegates and you want the Delegates and congregations to have *no prior notice* of your intentions, nay, even your (the LLC Board's) secret involvement. As Luther writes: "For the Holy Spirit does not come with stealth. He descends in full view from heaven. The serpents glide unnoticed. The doves fly. You can be sure that this secretiveness is characteristic of the devil."¹

A deliberate decision to keep this matter off the published agenda, for the stated reason that it might prompt questions from congregations not previously involved, is the opposite of the notice and open deliberation Article II contemplates. It would have the Delegates initiate expulsion proceedings against a sister congregation with no prior notice, no opportunity to consult the congregations they represent, and pursuant to a procedure arranged in advance between the proponents and the Board. This is wrong.

CCLLC objects to this procedure and requests that the matter be properly noticed and considered openly, as the governing documents require. **CCLLC further requests that the Board, the LLC office, and the Southwest Area Mission Committee take immediate steps to preserve, and not to delete, discard, alter, or destroy, all records, documents, correspondence, emails, text and other electronic messages, meeting minutes, notes, drafts, and recordings relating to (i) the proposed removal or expulsion of CCLLC and the handling of that matter, and (ii) the 2022 removals of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations — including all communications among the Board, the LLC office, the Southwest Area Mission Committee, and any member congregation concerning these matters.**

3. "Good standing" and voting. The Board asserts, citing Article II, Section 5, that CCLLC is not in good standing and has no vote. Please provide, in writing before the July 3, 2026, meeting: (a) the specific provision(s) relied upon; (b) the evidence supporting the assertion; and (c) a precise statement of what is claimed to be owed and unpaid, including the source of the obligation, the amount, the period(s) covered, and the method of computation. CCLLC is prepared to pay any amount properly owing upon being told the amount without prejudice to and without waiver of its position that its delegate is entitled to vote. Absent such a statement, CCLLC cannot be treated as in default of an obligation that has neither been quantified nor demanded. Please also disclose whether any other congregation has been similarly delinquent in dues and whether such congregation has had its right to vote withheld.

4. Current governing documents. Please provide the current, operative Constitution, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws of the LLC, with all amendments and dates of adoption.

5. Any Section 9 matter requires a stated, Scriptural basis and is not final. Section 9 permits removal only for failure to act "in accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws," and the

¹ Luther, Martin. [*Luther's Works, Vol. 40: Church and Ministry II*](#). Edited by Jaroslav Jan Pelikan et al., Fortress Press, 1999, p. 384.

Constitution makes the Holy Word of God “the highest authority and only measure” by which doctrine is judged (Section V). Before any vote bearing upon CCLLC’s membership, please provide a written statement identifying the specific doctrine of the Constitution that CCLLC is alleged to reject and the passages of the Holy Word of God said to be violated.

6. The 2022 removals were not lawful, and were never adjudicated on their merits. The Board treats the 2022 removals of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations as settled and beyond reconsideration. They are neither. As I have told you clearly before, in correspondence to which you chose not to respond at all, the LLC is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, and Minnesota law provides that a member “may not be expelled or suspended . . . except pursuant to a procedure that is fair and reasonable and is carried out in good faith,” including, for example, providing “not less than 15 days’ prior written notice of the expulsion . . . and the reasons for it” as well as “an opportunity for the member to be heard.” Minn. Stat. § 317A.411. The 2022 removals were accomplished by a show of hands, without any stated doctrinal basis measured against the Holy Word of God, and without the notice of reasons and opportunity to be heard that both the statute and the Constitution require. Each congregation had asked, in advance and in writing, to remain and to be judged by Scripture, and each was refused. Just like you have once again planned with CCLLC, it is clear that it was sprung upon the Delegates with coordination by the LLC Board and staff. If you insist that decision was made consistent with the law, why now are you going through the pains of a process you describe that is much like what I told you was required by law two years ago (excepting the part where you again fail to notify Delegates of your intent to vote on beginning the expulsion process)? If you did it right before, why are you changing the process now? I pray that each of you members of the Board examines your own heart and has the courage to speak up about this. I do not know whether you were deceived or feel the pressure of condemnation yourself if you speak up. Only God knows your hearts.

The Board’s letter cites the dismissal of the Minneapolis congregation’s lawsuit as though it confirmed the validity of the removals. It did not. Minnesota law permits a court to grant equitable relief for a violation of Chapter 317A only in an action “brought by at least 50 members with voting rights or ten percent of the members with voting rights, whichever is less.” Minn. Stat. § 317A.467. That action was not resolved on its merits; it was dismissed because the required number of member congregations to pursue the statutory remedy was not reached, *not* because any court determined that the LLC had complied with § 317A.411 or with its own Constitution and Bylaws. A dismissal on that ground decides nothing about whether the removals were fair, reasonable, undertaken in good faith, or consistent with the governing documents. CCLLC was not a party to that action and is bound by nothing in it. The Annual Meeting therefore remains fully free, and, we respectfully submit, obligated, to reconsider the matter under its own Constitution and Bylaws and under Minnesota law. The question lingers: if the LLC violated the law, but was not prosecuted (either by the Attorney General or by joinder of 10% of its members), is it okay to break the law? I submit it is not. The great effort to shove this under the rug is troubling.

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CCLLC's delegate will attend the Annual Meeting and, as Article II, Section 5 affords all in attendance "the freedom to speak and make suggestions," will speak to and present these matters.

In closing, we urge the Board not to fear the Word of God. Our Constitution makes the Holy Word of God "the highest authority and only measure" by which every doctrine is judged. It is the only source of light we have, and there is nothing to fear in reading, studying, and openly discussing what it teaches. "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd: but he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:20–21). Before any congregation is put out, the Board and the Delegates should be able to say plainly, from Scripture, why. If that cannot be done – if the reasons cannot bear the light – then the action is not of God, and those who take it may be led astray and find, as Luther warned, that they have followed the very spirit that works in secret. To study the Word openly and to state one's reasons from it is no threat to the LLC; it is the safeguard the Constitution itself commands, for CCLLC and for every congregation.

We therefore request a written response before or at the outset of the July 3, 2026 Annual Meeting, and that this letter, together with CCLLC's June 19, 2026 submission, be promptly distributed to all Delegates in advance of the meeting. So that we are clear, given that you intend to begin the process of forcibly removing CCLLC, all rights, positions, and objections are expressly reserved, without waiver.

God's Peace,

Briar Siljander
Delegate, Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church