

Email exchange regarding the LLC – Wolf Lake meeting of December 7, 2019

December 1, 2019 · Briar Siljander to Jim Frantti, Pat Lake, Randy Herrala and Joe Wuollet, and the reply of Jim Frantti

Date: Sunday, December 1, 2019, 7:35 p.m. (EST)

From: Briar Siljander <[redacted]>

To: [redacted]; [redacted]; rherrala@llchurch.org; Joe Wuollet
<[redacted]>

Subject: LLC - Wolf Lake Meeting

Attachment: WL Speeches.pdf (not reproduced here)

God's Peace Jim and Pat,

In prayer that God will guide, as He always does, I am reaching out to both of you prior to the discussion planned for December 7 to confirm some housekeeping matters.

I have reviewed the agenda for the discussion as well as some of the letters you have exchanged. I also listened to the Monticello board meeting referenced in letters from both the LLC Board and the Wolf Lake congregation. It is clear that the devil has sowed seeds of confusion and, aided by the weak flesh of man, has created much frustration and weariness. As the Apostle James writes: "[W]here envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

The first item on the agenda is the concern raised in Jim's letter of April 23 regarding the comments of Wolf Lake board members at the April 13 Board Members' Workshop at the Monticello church. I have attached to this email the transcripts of those comments and ask that you share them with the Wolf Lake congregation and the LLC Board, respectively. While all have had time, in subsequent months, to ponder and reflect on the workshop and the comments of the board members from Wolf Lake, it would be good if all could take the opportunity to review them so that concerns about them may be clearly voiced and discussed.

Even as God's children gather, the devil desires to confuse and embitter. To facilitate a fruitful

dialogue, while I understand the meeting is open for all to attend, I will encourage members of the LLC board and Wolf Lake congregation to speak first, and will ask that others reserve their input until both the LLC board and Wolf Lake congregation have had an opportunity to fully discuss the concerns raised. Also, because even this smaller group numbers more than 60 people, I will suggest that everyone be mindful that 60 ten-minute turns would take us well into the evening, and that individual speaking turns should therefore be limited in time and to the subject matter being discussed. Many at the Board Members' Workshop acknowledged the challenge of several hours separating the time they requested to speak and the time they were able to speak - that often the discussion had moved to different points by the time they had the opportunity to speak. It is my hope that the discussion can take the form of a dialogue and not a series of speeches so that the issues can be discussed with clarity and directness.

It is also important that each of these topics be addressed fully and in turn. If discussion regarding the first agenda item lasts the entire day, the remaining topics and any new topics may be carried into future discussions. Similarly, if discussion on the first agenda item is not concluded by the end of the day, that discussion should continue as soon as you may gather again.

As noted in the initial letter, these spiritual questions have permeated North American Zion. Inconsistent recollections of some past meetings and discussions have engendered mutual mistrust. Therefore, I ask that the practice of recording meetings and discussions such as this be continued so that every word may be established and kept in context.

All in God's kingdom long for peace. God's Word teaches that this peace can come only through unity in His Word. May God, through his Spirit, open our hearts and minds to receive and believe His Word so that true unity of faith may be proclaimed and love and peace may be restored.

God's Peace,
Briar

Date: Sunday, December 1, 2019, 8:12 p.m. (EST)

From: Jim Frantti <[redacted]>

To: Briar Siljander <[redacted]>

Subject: Re: LLC - Wolf Lake Meeting

Hi, Briar.

I received your second email about the services in March. Saturday evening and Sunday morning should work fine for me. Thanks.

Then, regarding the meeting in Wolf Lake. The letter that was sent to Wolf Lake was not mine, as you cited. Rather it was from the LLC Board, More than one person participated in the writing of it, and all Board members reviewed it. The signatures on it were mine and Randy Herrala's only because we serve as the Board chairman and secretary.

The suggestion of the LLC Board was that our visit in Wolf Lake would be a brotherly discussion of any questions or concerns that exist. The Board has never met with the Wolf Lake congregation and felt that we should offer to do that. It is also the feeling of the Board that this visit does not require any special mediation or moderation but that we could simply choose someone from the Wolf Lake board or congregation or from the LLC Board to moderate. In fact, I made the suggestion to Pat Lake that he serve as the moderator. It feels unusual to me that you have been asked to come to moderate. That is not because of any reservation that I or the Board would have toward you. It just doesn't seem necessary.

The hope of the Board is that discussion would not be limited to any one or two topics but that all could freely speak. I agree with your concerns about the number of participants and length of speeches. I also agree that it would be good if priority could be given to those in the Wolf Lake congregation and the LLC Board. It is always a challenge to try to limit the length of speeches.

On the matter of recording, it is always my preference to not record. Words are often weak on anyone's part, and some people can feel intimidated by the fact that everything they say is being recorded and can be spread widely. It has been especially troubling when some have recorded discussions or even conversations without knowledge of the participants and then shared these recordings. If the discussion is recorded, my hope is that there will be an official recording and that others will be asked not to record. That too is difficult to control.

My prayer is that we can have a brotherly discussion and that people will freely speak. May God help us and open the ears and hearts of all.

God's Peace.

Jim

Jim Frantti

E-mail: [redacted] or jfrantti@llchurch.org

[Street address and telephone numbers in the signature block omitted.]

[The quoted text of the message of December 1, 2019, 7:35 p.m., which the reply repeats in full, is omitted; it appears above.]