

Letter to Child Predator --- Charges Currently Pending

Dear _____:

It has come to our attention that you currently have been charged with serious crimes against a child. Irrespective of the ultimate disposition of the charges, or your plea of guilty or not guilty, allegations of this nature warrant that we take measures to protect our young people, avoid any circumstances from which further accusations could occur, and eliminate concern among the congregation.

By taking the steps outlined below, we are hopeful that the pastor, the staff, and the congregation can be of assistance to you. We recognize that all of us are in need of the mercy and grace God offers to each of those He created and whom He loves.

In order to address the needs and concerns of the congregation, it is necessary to provide mandatory guidelines for your participation in activities at the _____ United Methodist Church. The desire is to make them workable for you and at the same time meet the concerns of the congregation. We are hopeful you will agree to these terms and abide by them. If you will not, then stronger measures will be required. The activities by which you are asked to agree and abide are as follows:

1. Anytime you are on the campus of _____, you must be accompanied by a "buddy." There will be at least three people who will be available to act as a "buddy." The names and telephone numbers of those who have agreed to act as a buddy are listed at the bottom of this letter. You should make contact with one of them prior to coming to the campus on each occasion. One of these buddies must be present to meet you at your car and be in your company at all times while you are on the campus of the church. This includes accompanying you to the restroom. The buddy will accompany you to your car at the time you leave the campus.
2. You should restrict any conversation to people who are eighteen years of age or older.
3. You cannot serve in any positions of leadership or teaching until further notice.
4. Beginning immediately you should, for the present, restrict your time on the campus of _____ services of worship only. After a few weeks we can determine whether attendance at other activities is warranted. If attendance at other activities is permitted, that attendance will be subject to all of the mandatory guidelines contained in this letter.
5. You agree to allow the pastor or her/his designee to contact any probation officer or other governmental official, other than your attorney, or health care provider, in order to obtain information about you and to solicit their input as to how best to minister to you or to the congregation and community. By signing this letter you agree that this person may share any information with the pastor or her/his designee, and you release that person and their organization or practice from any liability as a result of releasing this information. This authorization and release specifically includes any information, written or verbal, associated with medical, psychological and psychiatric treatment which otherwise might be protected from disclosure by federal or state laws.

6. You agree to meet and consult with the pastor upon her/his request for the purpose of providing assistance to you or for the protection and security of the congregation and the community.
7. You understand and agree that it is necessary for the staff and members of the congregation to be advised of your status and the guidelines agreed upon.
8. At the end of the criminal process we shall revisit the guidelines above.

We trust you understand the reasons for these requirements. Please know that we and the staff of this congregation shall be praying for you. We look forward to what God will do in your life and in the lives of the members of this congregation as we confront this situation and seek God's direction.

Sincerely,

Pastor

Lay Leader (or other official)

The buddies to be called any time you plan to come to the campus of the church are:

1. _____ Tel no. _____
2. _____ Tel no. _____
3. _____ Tel no. _____

I have read the above letter and agree to abide by the mandatory guidelines contained in the letter.

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Name