

Patrick J. Morris
6217 NE Salmon Creek St
Vancouver, WA 98686
December 31, 2021

Office of the First Presidency
47 East South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Disfellowshipment Appeal:

On Dec 12th 2021 I was disfellowshipped for “conduct contrary to the laws and order of the Church”. Below are the reasons I believe that was invalid and unwarranted.

#1 Excessive

In August 2021 I felt inspired to stand before the congregation and bear my testimony. I began speaking of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. At the end I referenced 3 scriptures and then mentioned I didn't want to be a “good global citizen”, but a “citizen in Christ.”

The scriptures were:

1. JST Matthew 21: 50-56. Gospel taken from the gentiles
2. D&C 112: 23-25. Latter day destruction will begin on God's house.
3. D&C 64: 38-40. Zion is to police itself.

Immediately after I had a meeting with my bishop and was informed, I can no longer speak in church due to my scripture choice being critical of the leaders of the church. This is absurd that reading any canonized scriptures should be grounds for no longer being able to participate in church. Everything that followed was a result of that immediate over reaction. This is a huge amount of power to wield over people.

#2 Ignored

After I was informed, I can no longer participate I asked my Bishop and Stake President for clarification as to whether this was even something they could do due to the fact my “transgression” was so minor. I was literally ignored. As of now my last personalized message from my Bishop was Oct Sept 27th 2021. However, I have sent him 6 messages after that point for various purposes. These include questions about policies and proactively informing him of my actions so he could get my perspective. Each of these 6 messages has been ignored. If this situation was treated in a different, more inclusive manner, then the outcome would be very different.

#3 No Crime

As of now I am guilty of no sin or crime that should warrant membership restrictions. In fact, I am more worthy now than I have ever been in my life. I am constantly striving to seek after and follow the will of my God. The only thing I am guilty of is the nebulous concept of apostasy which is currently being interpreted as speaking out against any practice or policy of the LDS church. This is impossible to define and is left up to the arbitrary thoughts and feelings of my local leaders.

#4 Private Communication

In the church handbook, 32.6.3.2, the definition of apostasy is, "Repeatedly acting in clear and deliberate public opposition to the Church, its doctrine, its policies, or its leaders". I never did this and was in fact judged by my private communication to my religious leaders. The communication between myself and my leaders should have no bearing on my standing in the church, however it was a factor in the decision.

#5 Political

In May 2021 my family and I attended a protest in front of the Ridgefield High School which President Vance is involved in the administration of through his role on the board of directors for the school district. This protest caused a minor disturbance with the police being involved. We have attended protests in front of other schools in the area with similar effects. Since President Vance is on the board of directors for these schools he had to have been involved in discussions on this subject. As Stake President he has expressed in writing and verbally that we should follow our civic and religious leaders by wearing masks and getting the vaccine. Anything contrary to this is subversive behavior.

In Jan 2021 my family and I were involved in an incident at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center which Bishop Calvert works at as an OBGYN. During this incident a police officer violently assaulted an unarmed woman and I stepped in to defend her. Consequently, I was assaulted and pepper sprayed from about 6 inches away. This incident caused the hospital to go into lockdown. Since Bishop Calvert works at that hospital he had to have known about this incident. My assault was prominently featured in the news with videos of it getting more than 150,000 views in a few hours. Bishop Calvert has also expressed in writing and verbally that everyone should follow their civic and religious leaders by wearing masks and getting the vaccine and anything contrary is subversive behavior. He has also made snide remarks at youth activities about mask wearing when my children were literally the only ones not wearing masks.

For more than 1 year my family was told specifically we can not attend unless we complied. Therefore, we did not attend until Bishop Calvert allowed it. As we sit on the 2nd row in the chapel with no one in front of us then we are very visible in our protest. We are literally the only ones not wearing masks in the entire building.

Sincerely,
Patrick J. Morris