



BaptistGeneralConventionOfTexas
Minister/Church Relations

August 3, 2004

Deborah Dail
Lehtola & Associates, P.C.
3030 LBJ Freeway, Suite 750
Dallas, Texas 75234

Dear Ms. Dail,

This letter is written in response to your communication concerning Ms. Christa Brown. Since the office of Minister/Church Relations is tasked with reports of clergy sexual misconduct, I have been asked to respond on behalf of those who are employed by or serve the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Until you communicated the information in your report, current leadership had no knowledge of this reported abuse. Let us assure you that none of us would ever condone inappropriate conduct of any kind by ministers, members of the church staff or members of a congregation. Though our polity recognizes and practices local church autonomy, that autonomy does not insulate us from feeling grief and pain for individuals who experience betrayal and wounding by those who have spiritual oversight and responsibility. We regret Ms. Brown's suffering and hope and pray for her continued healing and recovery.

Information like you have provided enables us to assist in the protection of churches and individuals from those who might otherwise harm them. Such reports of misconduct have led to responses like the formation and current training of Victim Response Teams to provide "Crisis guidance" for Texas Baptist Churches and church members.

The BGCT neither owns nor controls any church, does not direct church operations, nor chooses church personnel. However, we do feel that continued dialogue between yourself, Ms Brown, and convention representatives on the additional issues raised, would be beneficial to both your client and our convention. I would be glad to work with you to set up the opportunity for that dialogue.

Please thank your client, Ms. Brown, for her willingness to share her experience in a way that will benefit and protect others.

Sincerely,

Wm. Jan Daehnert
Director, Min/Church Relations

Wm. Jan Daehnert, Director
333 North Washington
Dallas, Texas 75246-1798

888.446.1453
214.828.5278
Fax 214.828.5261
daehnert@bgct.org

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