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CURTIS L. CUKJATI

April 22, 2005

Southern Baptist Convention
Office of Convention Relations
901 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37203*Via Certified RRR*Mr. James P. Guenther
Guenther, Jordan & Price, P.C.
1150 Vanderbilt Plaza
2100 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203*Via Certified RRR*

Re: Report of sexual abuse by Baptist minister

Gentlemen:

My client has reported that she was sexually abused when she was a 16-year old girl by the youth and education minister at the First Baptist Church of Farmers Branch in Texas. That minister was named Tommy Gilmore. As my client recalls, this particular Tommy Gilmore was a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and his wife's name was Sue. In July 2004, a complete report concerning my client's abuse was submitted to you, and at that time, you responded that your records did not show Gilmore's name as being reported in a ministerial position in any church.

This letter is to inform you of our belief that Gilmore has been in ministerial positions in prominent churches during most of the intervening years. We believe it is the same Tommy Gilmore who was recently employed by the First Baptist Church of Oviedo in Florida, and before that by the First Baptist Church of Atlanta. My client has identified his picture, which was on the Oviedo church's website.

We have also received information that the Baptist General Convention of Texas has now added Gilmore's name to its own in-house file of ministers who have been involved in sexual abuse. By published policy, the Baptist General Convention of Texas places a minister in that file based on only three reasons: confession, conviction, or "substantial evidence that the abuse took place" as determined by the BGCT's own attorneys. Thus, my client's report has essentially been substantiated, and we wanted to inform you of that as well.

As you are probably aware, clergy abusers who prey on the young often have multiple victims, and the trauma is such that victims often do not speak of it for many years. My client's primary concern is to prevent the harm that was done to her from being done to others, and her hope is that any other possible victims may be able to receive counseling sooner so as to better deal with it psychologically. We hope that you will act in a manner that reaches out to other possible victims and that works to safeguard against the possibility of additional victims.

As with all cases when a minor is sexually abused by a person of trust, the effect on my client's life was devastating. It has been extremely difficult for her in recent times as well as she has struggled to come to terms with it. So far, neither the church nor the denomination has provided her with any assistance, neither with locating Gilmore nor with bare counseling costs. I wanted to make sure you were aware of this. The seemingly hostile manner in which her report has been handled by the individual church and the failure of the denomination to assist have grieved her greatly.

Finally, in order to protect the privacy and security of my client as a sexual assault victim, I ask that you black-out her name in the report that was previously provided to you so that, if any copies of it are made in the future, my client's name will not be identified.

We know that "Tommy Gilmore" is a relatively common name. To the best of our ability we believe this is the correct Tommy Gilmore that we have tracked to the First Baptist Church of Atlanta and the First Baptist Church of Oviedo. Please confirm this for yourself. If you have any reason to doubt that this is the same Tommy Gilmore who was once at the First Baptist Church of Farmers Branch, we would appreciate it if you would let us know. Obviously, Gilmore has not been found guilty on criminal charges in any court of law. My client's allegations are, however, very serious and significantly substantiated.

Very truly yours,

Curtis L. Cukjati

CLC/mf

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