

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

OAKTON VIRGINIA STAKE

May 22, 2014

Kate Kelly

By email:

Dear Sister Kelly,

I am grateful that you decided to meet with me on May 5, 2014. During this meeting, I hope you felt my love and concern for you. More importantly, I hope you felt the love and concern of your Heavenly Father. As I told you during our meeting, He loves you with a perfect love. He wants you to return to Him and to live with Him eternally.

As you know, and as we discussed at our meeting, the Atonement of Jesus Christ allows all of us to put aside our mistakes and to fully repent of our transgressions. I hope you have been thinking about the application of the Atonement in your life, and I pray that you will take advantage of it. As one who holds priesthood keys and who has been set apart as a common judge, I can assist you in that process. If you will turn away from the current path you have taken as we discussed during our meeting, I can help you. More importantly, He can help you.

As things currently stand, however, this letter is to confirm that when you, President Kenneth Lee and I met on May 5, 2014, you were placed on informal probation as a matter of Church discipline for your activities relating to Ordain Women, for openly, repeatedly and deliberately acting in public opposition to the Church and its leaders after having been counseled not to do so, for continuing to teach as doctrine information that is not doctrine after having been counseled regarding the doctrine of the priesthood, and for leading others to do the same.

Because of this informal probation, you can no longer represent that you are a member in good standing in the Church. While you are on informal probation you are encouraged to attend public Church meetings so long as your conduct is orderly, but you may not partake of the sacrament, hold a Church calling, give a talk, offer a public prayer, or participate in the sustaining of Church officers. If you are invited to pray or read a passage or comment in a class or other Church meeting, you must decline. You cannot use Church property such as meetinghouses, temple grounds, visitors' centers, the Barlow center or similar facilities to promote, teach about or conduct OW activities, actions, protests or demonstrations, or do anything of a similar nature.

You are encouraged to continue wearing temple garments, to read the scriptures and pray daily, to continue to pay tithes and offerings, and to seek and strive to end this probation through sincere repentance and righteous living.

Sincere repentance will be demonstrated by your actions. In order to end this probation, you will need to demonstrate over a period of time that you have stopped and refrained from teachings and actions that undermine the doctrine of the priesthood, the Church itself and its leaders, that you have taken down or done all you can to take down www.ordainwomen.org and disassociated yourself from Ordain Women. You must be truthful in your communications with others regarding matters that involve your priesthood leaders, including the administration of Church discipline, and you must stop trying to gain a following for yourself or your cause and lead others away from the Church.


It is important that you understand that you are not required to change your thinking or the questions you may have in your own mind regarding the ordination of women, but you need to make it a private matter and work through this issue with your bishop or branch president.

When you show evidence of true repentance and satisfy the conditions imposed, I or your presiding priesthood officer will consider ending this probation. If you choose not to repent, formal Church discipline will be required. Genuine repentance is demonstrated more reliably by righteous actions over a period of time than by statements made in a single interview. Factors to be considered in determining true repentance will be your depth of sorrow, your desire to experience a great change of heart, forsaking improper conduct, your strength of faith in Jesus Christ, faithfulness in obeying other commandments, truthful communications to Church officers, restitution to injured persons, and willingness to follow the direction of Church authorities.

In taking this action I have acted upon the promptings of the Holy Ghost. I have felt the love of our Heavenly Father and Savior for you and have tried to reflect that love. I have also acted out of my own genuine love and concern for you, for others who are listening to and following you, and for the Church. It is my sincere hope that you will make the necessary changes in your life to regain all of your membership privileges, especially the privilege of attending the temple.

Again, I can assure you that this discipline is a result of our Heavenly Father's love and concern for you. Our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ know how to save each of us. I look forward to the day when this probation can be ended because of the Atonement, repentance and forgiveness.

Faithfully yours,



Scott M. Wheatley
President, Oakton Virginia Stake