From: **Barry Pendergast** barrypendergast@telus.net
Subject: In Search Of Truth
Date: April 23, 2017 at 7:10 AM
To: Mel Sylvester ejfoster@shaw.ca, Bill McAlpine bmcalpine@ambrose.edu, Steve Kresyniuk swiftsur@shaw.ca



Mel, Bill and Steve
It is with with a heavy heart and sorrow we write to you early on a Sunday morning. Sorrow on a number of fronts not least of all that it might be the last time we enter an established church for ever. We do not know anyone else we can safely share his sorrow with.

In early June 2016 we identified and tried to raise awareness on experiences we had encountered at First Alliance Church where in the Marriage & Family ministry we had been spiritually abused, been victims of false witness and gross misuse of scripture to hurt and harm us so that we could not ask valid questions on improprieties taking place. At no time was the Ministry run under the requirements of the FAC Staff Covenant or other relevant documents . Over a painful eleven months we would now add we have been lied to and bullied to prevent legitimate concerns being raised. .

Early on we were fortunate to have Melodie Bissell, CEO of Plan to Protect , A National Canadian body helping prevent abuse in many institutional settings. Melodie attempted to try to help chart process forward with the church leadership. Her recent testimony is attached.

Impart she writes " I can only share from my interactions with them that the Pendergasts loved the family/marriage ministry they were involved in and had been involved in for many years. They speak to being removed from that ministry and not invited back. They share that they never received volunteer reviews or feedback on their ministry. They voice that they were heartbroken and felt they were made redundant. They also speak to the fact that they felt they didn't have a voice or opportunity to disagree with the decision.
They did not feel or do they feel shepherded or pastored, listened to by church leadership, valued in the process. I can attest that during this time **I have witnessed and observed many indicators of trauma including fear, pain, and stress."**

Melodie's views were suppressed during the last eleven months as irrelevant.

Another significant person who came to our help early on is Pat Nixon. He has been our witness and spiritual advisor during these eleven painful months, in meeting after meeting where it became increasingly apparent the church leadership needed to suppress our testimony and sweep everything under the carpet. Pat's influence was to try to take all reasonable steps to ensure a process that was open, honest and transparent, In our opinion none of these were part of a process engineered by church leaders and members of the Elder Board to keep everything secret.

Numerous times we have asked for a wise and independent person(s) to hear all the proof and evidence we and the church leaders have. Each and everyrtime time these requests were refused. Why?

The supporting testimony from others independent of FAC control confirms the hurt and trauma was rejected but we attach copies. Our respective doctors and councillors will also attest to the emotional, psychological and physical harm done to us.

Quite simply there is no middle ground on this. Either we have lied about what transpired on 27th May 2016 and earlier, perhaps concocted an elaborate and imaginative plan with multiple witnesses and evidence. But for what purpose would we do that? Our relationships with all other parts of the church and Christian community on the outside are good. In the alternative did senior pastors, team leaders and Elders lie to cover up their malicious acts. If the latter is true then multiple parts of Biblical leadership requirements have been broken and appropriate counselling and disciplinary action is required.

Even Paster Trask,the Area Superintendent in a recent examination admits the process was long and hurtful to us ' Tim (Beadle) has kept me informed throughout this past year as we saw a process develop and move towards an attempt at reconciliation. I have no doubt that you have been hurt by the treatment at the hands of folks at FAC, and that FAC people (Pastors and lay leaders) could and should have responded better along the way - both in means, process and timing." Pastor Trask goes on to further victimize us by an incorrect analysis of facts fed to him by church leaders.

We now make a plea to you and others in alliance movement to allow us together with Pat Nixon to truthfully share our testimony in an open and safe environment to allow proper policies and safeguard to be immediately implemented.

If you are not willing to listen who will?

Yours respectfully

Barry & Jennifer



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To whom it may concern:

I have come to know the Pendergasts through a mutual acquaintance in my line of work. Barry and I were paired up to develop a program in my line of work. During this time of working together, we came to know each other and families very well. One of the more outstanding items we came to know is that the Pendergasts were going through a very difficult time in their church which is First Alliance in Calgary. There was no question that we needed to pray and help them through the difficult issues they were facing. To date not much has changed. We know the issues are serious when they share that these difficulties at their church were more severe than even the loss of their son some years ago. We support them and see this political nonsense as a part of life that is just not necessary. It is really unfortunate the stress and strife they have had to endure. If there was anything we could do to sort this out or remedy it, we would. This is the reason I am writing this short note.

Allow me to share a little of my back ground of who I am. My wife of 25 years and I have been members of Centre Street Church since 1995. We have a family of 3 sons and are currently foster parents to 4 little girls. We have been foster parents for 10 years. I am employed with a large non-profit shelter for 9 years.

Tom and Christine Loszchuk.

