

To: Mars Hill Church Full Council of Elders

From: Mike Wilkerson

With: Former Elders of Mars Hill Church

Subject: Concern for Mars Hill

Elders of Mars Hill Church,

I still consider you my brothers, even though I've moved on from Mars Hill. In so many ways, my heart is still there. And I still believe that the heart of Mars Hill is alive and beating for Jesus. I know that many lives have been transformed in powerful ways there, including my own. This confidence contributes to my sense of urgency to appeal to you as elders.

I was there for fourteen years, on staff as an elder for ten. I know what it is to live in the tension between the commonly held experience of "unhealthy culture issues that have been part of Mars Hill for way too long" on the one hand, and the hope for change and progress on the other. I know what it's like to be all over the spectrum: from feeling reasonably confident that the church is moving in a healthy direction, to being gravely concerned that it isn't, and back and forth, for years. I know how challenging it can be to draw confident conclusions on these issues based on reports from others when you lack direct access to critical information.

I believe that the most important next step toward the renewal of Mars Hill Church is the removal of Mark Driscoll from the office of elder, so he can focus on personal change, reconciliation and healing for his own heart and for those he's hurt. I don't stand alone in this belief. I write with other concerned former pastors of Mars Hill who have signed this letter with me.

Many of us have been invited into a reconciliation process, and while we all want to reconcile personally with Mark, personal reconciliation will not resolve the long-standing serious systemic problems in the church.

We have submitted to the Mars Hill board of advisors and accountability the attached formal charges of Mark's disqualification from the pastoral office. We have signed these charges and intend to stand as witnesses. There are additional witnesses whose names have been withheld for their protection, but who also intend to testify in an investigation of these charges.

We are confident that truthful, candid answers to the questions that many are asking are all that will be required to support these charges. The issue is one of trust: Whose answers do you find trustworthy? And this question comes very close to the center of the issue: Who do you find trustworthy?

The church belongs to Jesus, and he has provided safeguards to protect his flock. Namely, he has provided character qualifications for elders. The sheep, including the elders, need to be able to trust the shepherds, and these shepherds, including the elders, should faithfully point to the

ultimately trustworthy Chief Shepherd. When that trust is broken, the consequences are devastating.

We are heartbroken and we want to see Mark and Mars Hill restored.