



831 Broadway Avenue Alexandria, La. 71302
Telephone: 318-445-6730 Fax: 318-443-4913

Deacons

Dave Coaty Sr.-Harry Bonton-Elmer Barnes

June 19, 2023
Via Certified Mail

To: Leslie Draper III

CC: Jeff Hall, Marvin Crawford, Charlie Taylor

Please be informed that **YOU ARE NOT THE PASTOR OF TRUE VINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH!** We, as a congregation, did not vote for you nor do we consider you to be our pastor. It is crucial to emphasize that this letter reflects the collective sentiments of the congregation of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church. It is not the result of a single individual's opinion but rather a shared concern that has arisen due to the lack of transparency surrounding your fraudulent appointment as pastor.

To provide clarity, the congregation firmly believes that the selection and appointment of a pastor should be a democratic process, involving open communication, transparency, and the active participation of the congregation. This did not happen in your case as you are aware. You received only 3 votes. Even the deacon, and in particular, those who have been ousted by the congregation, did not vote for you.

It is important for you to understand that our concerns do not stem from personal animosity or prejudice towards you as an individual. Rather, they arise from our strong desire to uphold the values and principles that underpin the functioning of our church community. We firmly believe that the process of appointing a pastor must be guided by the will of the congregation, ensuring that the collective voice is heard and respected. The lack of a democratic process has eroded the trust and confidence we once had in the church leadership. Our concerns are rooted in the belief that a pastor's legitimacy and effectiveness are dependent on the acceptance and support of the congregation they serve.

To add insult by your presence, we now have evidence that you have been engaging in distressing and offensive behavior. Specifically, you have been composing letters that contain threats and harassment, targeting multiple members of our church community and falsely accusing them of violent, hostile, and criminal actions. Your actions are intended to malign and intimidate these individuals, and we will not tolerate such baseless attacks.

You have consistently resorted to intimidation tactics against anyone who shows support for our stance that you are not our rightful pastor. It is evident that Charlie Taylor, Jeff Hall, and Marvin Crawford, in an attempt to fraudulently appoint you as pastor, violated the constitutional bylaws of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church. Due to these actions, we have taken legal action and are currently engaged in litigation, charging Charlie Taylor, Jeff Hall, and Marvin Crawford with contempt of court. Furthermore, it is important to note that these

individuals no longer hold any official positions at True Vine, as they were democratically removed from their roles by majority vote from the congregation.

We hereby inform you that unless you immediately cease and desist from employing these menacing and alarming tactics, we will take legal action against you. Furthermore, we demand that you refrain from referring to yourself as the pastor of True Vine, particularly in any form of media, including written, recorded, or video materials. It is essential to understand that you do not hold the position of our pastor and should not misrepresent yourself as such.

Let us bring your attention to *Ephesians 6:12*: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"; *Psalm 94:16*: "Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?"; and *Proverbs 21:15* (NIV): "When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers."

We intend to assure you that we, as a congregation of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, are committed to our resolve. Our church is over 100 years old and we have endured many challenges in that 100 year tenure. We will not allow you, Charlie Taylor, Marvin Crawford and Jeff Hall to take our church.

True Vine Missionary Baptist Church

Stephanie Jackson	TERRICK Baldwin	Melonee D. Borton
Simon	Ira Simon	Jonathan Davison
Lashelle Deyney	David Simon	Greyce Davis
SWA	Brandy Sibley	Timothy Richardson
Dana Coatsy	Tedra Simon	Imu Edson
HARRY BORTON	Vergie M. Ross	ALBERTENA EDISON
Eloise Coatsy	Essie Shortt	Aline Deal
Melvin L. Winchester	Enelge Williams	Jena M Henderson
Gloria Saunders	Beverly Baker	Claudia Daines
Tenye Baldwin	Billy Baker	Terena Dines
Kenneth Baldwin Jr.	Jammy Stewart	Leanne Holme
Nneka Sibley	Regan Stewart	Brenette Piper
Shemar Sibley	Blenn Stewart	Sherru Copper
Pamela Walker	Santa	Velma Johnson Wade
Robert Walker	Shwendelyn Murray	Flora Johnson
	Maddie Thomas	Bony Lynn Hall
		Jacey Lotts
		APRIL

Mission Statement:

"To execute the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-39), the Great Ministry, (Matt. 25:34-40), and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) until our departure or the Lord's return."



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True Vine Missionary Baptist Church (Conti.)

Margaret Williams
Frank J. Powell
Rena Spauld
Charlette Marshall
Bernette Van Dyke
CARL BAKER
Faithie Shavel
Julien Wlas
Lyle Cherry
John R. Crawford
Harris W. W. W. W.
Doris W. W. W.
Deborah Bowler
Cynthia Clark Stephens

Sharon Carpenter
Alfred F. F. F.
John G. F. F.
Robert E. F. F. F.
Stephanie Ford

Martenio Sanders

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