

A Response to Requests Made by Congregants of Park Street Church in Preparation for the Special Meeting of June 2, 2024

Kris Perkins

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of Park Street,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who understands the burdens we bear and promises to deliver us from every tribulation. Through each and every hardship, we are refined. By clinging faithfully to him in long-suffering his glory is manifest in and through our lives. In humility, Christ himself bore the cross to complete the work given to him, and through suffering, God's goodness has come to bear on generation after generation. He was delivered through death and lives in glorified life as we all shall when we take up our own crosses and follow him. One day we shall stand together in unity around his throne crowned with everlasting joy when sin is no more and the troubles of this world melt away.

For those who do not know me, my name is Kris Perkins. I served on the staff of Park Street Church for 24 years first as an Assistant Minister of Families beginning in 1997, then as the Associate Minister of Church Development and Families beginning in 2010, then as the Associate Minister beginning in 2016. After assisting Park Street in its years of transition from 2016 to 2020, I became the Senior Pastor of Triangle Grace Church in Durham, North Carolina in the summer of 2021. Laura and I have four children all of whom grew up with Park Street Church in the center of their lives. We are deeply grateful for our church family in Boston over those 24 years and now here in Durham over the past three.

Laura and I have been in prayer for all of you throughout this year asking that the Lord would intercede in the midst of the painful division through which the church is walking. Even in the midst of hardship we know that Christ is in your midst and working among you through his Holy Spirit. We have prayed that the path of humility might be chosen by all so that unity would be restored to Park Street and the witness of this church regained without tarnish. Our love for all of you is as strong as the day we left, the memories of life at Park Street as sweet today as the experiences we shared over two decades of fellowship, friendship, and service together.

Why This Letter

Park Street is walking through a time of strife. Over the past year many from the church - both those who have been supportive of the current leadership of Park Street and those who have raised significant concern - have reached out to me seeking counsel, encouragement, and prayer as a friend and former pastor who understands the complexity of church life at Park Street. My counsel has been consistent to both groups: think the best of the other side, be humble and kind, know that God is in the midst of what is unfolding and that he remains on the throne as the chief shepherd of Park Street.

I was asked by congregants to travel to Boston and speak at the Annual Meeting in February, but I declined to do so without first receiving an invitation or permission from the leadership of the church to attend. When approached by a reporter from the Boston Globe to offer details about my experience with current leadership of the church I declined to do so. When I was approached by a reporter from Christianity Today to provide for him details about my experiences with Mark Booker, I politely declined. Many of you have followed the Wartburg Watch, a blog that has been an online resource for conversation about the issues unfolding at Park Street. I have never posted on that blog. A number of people encouraged me to reach out to the Vicinage Council and share my experiences with them, and though I would have responded positively to a request from them because of their formal role with the CCCC, I chose not to proactively share what transpired over the last year of my ministry at Park Street Church unless approached by those serving on the Vicinage Council.

I share this background with you to underline my reluctance to speak publicly about any matters unfolding at Park Street. My only public statement to date was made on Facebook. It was a corporate call for humility and unity at Park Street. Like so many around the world who love the church as I do, I want to see Park Street healthy and thriving. My hope was that through such a post, those at Park Street would be reminded that what is unfolding at Park Street impacts many more people than just those who gather each Sunday on the corner of Tremont and Park Street.

I have again been requested by members of Park Street Church to share my testimony with the church in the upcoming Special Meeting. I asked them to submit a request to the Elders to allow me to do so wanting to show deference to the leadership of the church. That request was declined by the Elders. By doing so, the Elders have not allowed relevant testimony to be heard by the congregation which has direct bearing on the issues at hand.

It is common practice for those who once served at a church to remain silent on what transpires after their departure. It is a principle which I have embraced for 3 years. But this moment in which Park Street is living is anything but common. In its 215 years, the threat to the health and integrity of the church has never been so great. Such metastasized division has never been experienced at Park Street to such a degree as you are experiencing today, and the church will not recover from it if it is allowed to continue to move in this direction.

We have Paul's example of love as he wrote to churches from whom he had departed after spending years of service among them. When strife had reached a boiling point he wrote words of truth, love, and encouragement to them. Some clearly were not pleased (read the second letter to the Corinthians!) I can only imagine that what I share will not be received well by some. But no one can deny my love for you and the motivation from which it is written.

Those of you who remain at Park Street know my love for you, whether you have been supportive of Mark or have raised concerns about his leadership. I think of how much I enjoyed catching up with Jason Abraham on Friday nights after two hours of hanging out with his kids, and how much Laura and I appreciated meals cooked by Jason and Acacia and brought to our house as we walked through difficult times, and how much fun it was to brainstorm with Acacia as we planned ministry events together. I think about the privilege of baptizing Michael and Tracy Balboni's children at Family Camp, and marrying Dan and Jen Vogelzang, and praying with Herman Smith after heart surgery in the hospital, and walking beside Charles and Kirstin Peltz as they said goodbye to Charles' father, and spending a week in Colombia with John Knight and Tristan Rix, and enjoying lunches with David Rix at Joe's Diner and Brian Winey at Harvard Gardens and Mike Ahearn on the East Boston waterfront. I think of brainstorming with Nathan Skinner trying to figure out how to handle unexpected tensions among the music team and how much meaningful life the Herndon family, the Verrengias, and our family have shared. I remember how wonderful it was to have Damian Long join the staff of Park Street, and walking beside Julian Linnell as his mother and father died and praying with Tammy and Pat McLeod in the hospital as Zach was on the edge of life and death and praying for little Grace Leary on our knees in the Sky Room when it appeared as though she might not live.

I could go on naming names and reminding you of the depth of my love for each of you because of what we shared together. I know the divide which is present at Park Street in this moment, but my love is not divided, my love remains steadfast for the whole church, for those on either side of the chasm. My affection remains the same for you as the day our family departed from your midst.

In Mark Booker's sermon from Hebrew 12 on February 4, 2024 he noted the call to strive for peace with everyone. But he rightly explained that this is not a command to be at peace with everyone. If we were to be at peace with everyone that would be to put peace above truth and love which the scriptures do not command us to do. He said that we cannot simply sweep issues under the rug to arrive at peace as tempting as that may be. He said that we must be careful that in our desire to see conflict go away that we do not short-circuit the genuine steps towards biblical reconciliation. The invitation to strive for peace is not an invitation to avoid doing or saying hard things in love. Speaking such things are the duties and demands of love and truth," Mark said.

And so I am compelled to write at this moment for the sake of the congregation and in response to their formal request, to speak in truth because of my love for all of you.

[My Experience with Mark](#)

I have been asked by multiple people to share about my dismissal from Park Street Church publicly and for the reasons cited above I have not. I did not want to create division within the church upon my departure nor add to the developing division as things worsened this year. My departure came as a surprise to many and did not make sense to them. Mark's decision to remove me from staff came as a surprise to me as well and has yet to make sense.

Let me first share with you what happened in the winter and spring of 2021.

Mark had been hired in February of 2020 and began leading our church in March. It was a difficult time to begin a new tenure as we dealt with the enormous burdens of the burgeoning COVID pandemic together.

The first week of January 2021, I submitted my annual report for the previous year. Here is what I wrote in the opening paragraph:

“God has been gracious and faithful to Park Street in 2020 as he always has been and always will be. After more than two years of searching he has brought to our congregation a Christ-centered, godly pastor who is passionate to share the hope that is ours in Jesus through word, deed, and example on our campus, in our city, and beyond. Mark Booker and his family are a gift to us and a testimony of God’s gracious provision for his people.”

To offer more context about my own life at that moment, my father had died of COVID in May of 2020. In October of 2020 Laura’s dad died unexpectedly. My mother’s health and mobility significantly deteriorated upon my father’s death and was in and out of the hospital that year and into the next. Laura and I were taking care of her at age 88 in our home. During the first week of January, my brother was admitted to intensive care because of COVID. It was questionable whether he would make it. We were supporting tuition for Isaiah in college, Josiah was about to enter college in the fall, and we were preparing for Amanda’s wedding in May. Of course, all of us were at home at that point trying to navigate COVID remotely for work and school. Life was complicated and weighty to say the least.

Mark had scheduled a meeting with me the second week of January for what I assumed was strategizing about the coming year. After offering Mark an update on my family which included the issues I just mentioned, Mark changed the topic and said, “I want to be honest with you Kris, I do not see you as part of my ministry team moving forward.”

This came as a complete shock to me. Up to this point I thought Mark and I had served side-by-side collegially and in a productive manner. At no point had Mark raised concern about any aspect of my work, differences in ministry perspective, or issues about our ability to work together. I asked Mark if he could articulate why he did not believe I was a good fit for his developing ministry team of which his only reply was, “My gut tells me that it is so.” I asked him numerous times the same question in different ways to which he said there was no other reason than that.

Mark asked me to share this with Laura, but told me that I was not to share this with anyone else. I asked him why I could not and his response to me was, “It would be toxic if this got out.” I said to Mark, “Good decisions are never toxic.” I also asked him if he thought Park Street Church would be better off without the Perkins family present to which he said, “yes.” I asked for permission to share this situation with one or two people in the congregation for support and care. He gave permission on the condition that I needed to let him know who I planned to talk to and that he must talk to them first. He let me know that the Personnel Committee knew of this decision, but the Elders did not and if this became more widely known actions toward my termination would move quickly.

Mark asked to meet three days later with me. He asked me how Laura and I were processing his decision. I told him that we were devastated. I told him, however, it really did not matter what Laura and I thought of the situation, because he was the one who held power. I asked him if he was sure this was the way he wanted to wield his authority.

I asked Mark for permission to speak with Dan Verrengia as one of the two people from the congregation to walk beside me in this. Dan was a professional counselor, outstanding pastor, and trusted friend and I thought he would be the best one to provide support to me as this unfolded. To my great surprise, Mark forbade me to speak with Dan; he offered no explanation why.

Approximately 2 weeks later Mark set up another meeting with me, this time with David Rix present. I asked for permission for another person to be present and requested that it be Alexis Sauer-Budge an elder at Park Street at the time. Mark gave permission on the condition that he spoke with Alexis before the meeting.

During this meeting I again asked Mark to help me to understand why he did not believe I was a good fit for his team. I presented specific reasons and asked him to either agree or disagree whether it contributed to his decision to remove me from staff. I asked about,

- A difference of theology viewpoint
- A difference of philosophy of ministry
- My work ethic
- Not pastoral enough
- My job performance was below par
- Moral failure
- Not articulate enough
- I publicly opposed him or he perceived me as unsupportive of him
- My presence was somehow a threat to his leadership
- I was representative of a past team of ministry leaders
- He wanted a younger person serving as his associate minister
- He wanted greater diversity on the staff

He shook his head back and forth and said, “no” to each of these possibilities. I again asked if there were any other reasons I had not mentioned that had given his cause to make this decision and he reiterated that the only reason was that “his gut told him so.”

I said to Mark that I cannot see the principle from scripture he was using to justify this decision that it did not reflect the ethic of love which he asserted was the central tenet of his approach to ministry in his first sermon to Park Street. I said that surely two brothers in Christ who lived by the Book could partner in ministry and work out together any issues which may be before them also making reference to Matthew 18. I asked Mark to share with me the scriptural principle upon which his decision was based, and he said that it was “wisdom” and that he was being loving because he was being honest. But he offered no further explanation.

I also said to him that because this decision was neither coming from love nor humility and lacked transparency in every aspect of it, I did not believe God would honor the decision and that it would end up hurting the church and bring unnecessary harm to his ministry at Park Street. David again restated that if this decision leaked out, my termination would move more swiftly.

Afterward I was given permission to speak to David Rix alone. David expressed care and concern for me and my family saying that he knew how difficult all this was. He offered financial support and assistance

to help me find a new position if it was needed, a gesture for which I was grateful for in the midst of what was transpiring.

I asked David if Mark had shared with him reasons for this decision beyond what he had shared with me up to this point. David said that Mark had indeed offered further insight into his reasoning to David and the Personnel Committee. I reminded David that Mark had now told me multiple times that there were no other reasons beyond “My gut tells me so” for his decision even after I asked him if there were any other reasons. I reminded him that Mark had said to me that he was being honest with me. I asked David if Mark was telling me the truth when he made that statement to me. I said, “Don’t you see that he is lying to me when he says there is no other reason.” David said that he recognized the incongruence.

I told David that Mark had said that if this decision was made public that it would be toxic and I said good decisions are never toxic and transparency is never toxic, and transparency at the beginning of David’s tenure as Moderator was a principle he held in high value. I told David I would welcome the opportunity to interact with the Elders concerning all of this.

I told David that I was concerned for Mark, that this was not a wise decision nor a good use of his authority. I encouraged him to intervene. I reiterated to David that because this decision is not coming from love and lacked transparency in every aspect of it, God would not honor this decision and that it would end up hurting the church and bring unnecessary harm to his ministry at Park Street.

In January 2021 Mark also decided to eliminate 5 additional staff positions. His first step of public communication was to inform the staff of his decision. It was one of the most discouraging meetings I sat through in over 20 years at Park Street when Mark shared this decision with the staff in the Welcome Center. But what was particularly distressing to me was that at the end of the meeting a member of the staff asked Mark directly if we should expect more people to be let go. His answer implied that they would see no other staff departures. Of course, he had made his decision to remove me from staff at that point already, but did not share that with the staff.

As the spring progressed all of my responsibilities were removed from me. I no longer supervised staff or assisted in worship coordination. I no longer was allowed to attend Elders’ meetings which I had attended for the previous 12 years.

In light of what was transpiring, I submitted a letter of resignation to the Board of Elders at the beginning of June. By the grace and provision of God one of the churches with whom I was interacting expressed growing interest in me in the spring of 2021, and Triangle Grace formalized a call to become their Senior Pastor in late July of 2021.

[Reflections on My Dismissal](#)

There are a number of issues which come to mind as I reflect back on this experience.

Deception

In three consecutive meetings Mark told me that there was no other reason he made the decision to remove me from staff other than it was his gut that told him this was the right decision to make.

David Rix, on the other hand after my third meeting with Mark, told me that Mark had indeed presented reasons to him why he decided to remove me from staff.

So for two months Mark repeatedly lied to me. David acknowledged that himself.

Mark also deceived the staff when he led them to believe that he foresaw no other staff members departing.

Fairness

At a final meeting I had with Mark in March in which David Rix and Stephen Adams attended, I again pressed Mark on his reasoning for my dismissal. He finally relented and said that, "Yes, there were reasons for his decision other than his gut feeling, but if he were to share them with me, I would try to refute them." Again, he would offer no explanation of his January decision.

So Mark would not allow me to know the reasons for his decision, nor would he give me the opportunity to repent of whatever offense or issue that I had done which he believed warranted my removal from staff, nor would he allow his own perspective on the past to be discussed, questioned, or challenged.

Misuse of Authority

Mark initiated my termination without the awareness or consent of the Elders for approximately 3 months. The church's bylaws state clearly that the Senior Minister may discharge a minister only with the approval of the Board of Elders. He chose to keep this decision hidden from the leadership of the Board with David's consent.

Fairness

At the time of Mark's decision in January, the only committee which was aware of Mark's decision was the Personnel Committee. That committee supported my removal from staff without confirming with me or through independent sources whatever allegations Mark made against me to warrant my removal from staff.

Misuse of Authority

Equally egregious is that the Personnel Committee allowed Mark to move ahead with this plan without informing the Elders and seeking their consent as the bylaws demand.

Fairness

When the Board of Elders were eventually informed of the actions which Mark had taken supported by the Personnel Committee, the Elders were not presented with specific reasons for my termination according to Elders who were present. Yet, a majority of Elders supported Mark's decision without demanding Mark offer a detailed explanation or offer me an opportunity to address whatever issues upon which Mark based his decision.

So at no point did the Personnel Committee confirm whatever allegations Mark made against me. At no time did the Elders confirm whatever allegations Mark made against me. At no time was I given the opportunity to defend myself.

Controlling

Mark controlled who I was allowed to speak to and who I was not concerning decisions which he made, decisions which violated PSC bylaws.

Threatening

Mark and David ensured that I would not speak out about any of this by threatening our family's well-being with swift termination if the Elders or the congregation became aware of Mark's decision at any point.

Lack of Empathy

All of this was unfolding as we carried the weight of losing both of our dads in 5 months, supporting my mom as her health significantly deteriorated, preparing for Amanda's wedding and Josiah's first year of college while supporting Isaiah for his senior year at Skidmore. Mark's decision caused significant grief and hardship for our family.

Toxicity

Mark was right when he first told me of his decision in January of 2021 that if this decision was made public it would be toxic. It was toxic and hurtful to our family, and it has only harmed the church.

Reflections as the Special Meeting Approaches

We are grateful for God's sovereign care of our family through all of this. To be called by Triangle Grace to be their Senior Pastor has been a gift from God and an immeasurable privilege. The Lord provided greatly for us out of this sad episode. We love our current church family as we loved Park Street in past years and still do.

Upon Mark's arrival in 2020, I was hopeful that we had crossed the bridge of transition and a new season of flourishing ministry was emerging for Park Street Church. Mark's gifts were clear and welcomed, and we wanted to see and needed the church to succeed under his leadership.

As I was confronted with Mark's decision to terminate five staff members as well as remove me from staff, the impact that such decisions would have upon the church was obvious. Park Street had walked through four difficult years from 2016-2020 which Phil Thorne described as "a bomb had gone off." This could only have the same kind of impact on the church.

In my meetings with Mark beginning in 2021, I told him that because the decision to terminate my role was not based on love nor humility and lacked transparency in every aspect of it, God would not honor this decision in his life, that it would end up hurting the church and bring unnecessary harm to his ministry at Park Street. What Park Street has been experiencing over the past two years is a result of continued decision making and leadership following the same patterns. The church has been deeply wounded because of a continued lack of transparency, a lack of humility, and a misapplication of authority.

It came as a great surprise to me, that though my name was recommended to the Vicinage Council as a former CCCC pastor and a person who should be interviewed with relevant information to share on the matters in which they would render judgment, they chose not to reach out to me to investigate my

experience of Mark's leadership. Although I have great respect for the pastors who sacrificially offered time to attempt to assist Park Street through this difficult episode, there are a number of other glaring issues within the Vicinage Report which manifest its deficiency as a fair and thorough evaluative document of these matters.

When a request was made by concerned congregants that I have the opportunity to share my experiences with Mark's leadership at the upcoming Special Meeting, that request was also denied by church leadership.

Neither the decision by the Vicinage Council nor the decision by the Elders make sense to me. I believe (as should church leadership) that it is important that the congregation has all relevant testimony and evidence to help them make informed decisions which, to this date, they have not been given the opportunity to consider.

I have told my colleagues with whom I now serve that I cannot wrap my head around what has transpired at Park Street in the last few years. I would be thankful to have any one of the current or past Park Street Elders serve on the Elder Board in my current church. They are dear friends - exceptionally gifted people who deeply love Jesus and the church. I can only assume that the decisions which the leadership of the church has been making has, in their mind, been in the best interest of the church. But the widening of division within the church is evidence that it is not so. Something has happened to calcify an approach to leadership which is detrimental to the health of the church. The leaders themselves cannot see it, and it needs to be addressed by the congregation. The casualties of such leadership are piling up and will continue into the future until a different direction is embraced.

In private conversations I have told those who are supportive of Mark with whom I have interacted, that I am glad that they have remained by his side. The challenges of ministry are great, and he needs and deserves friends to shoulder the heavy burdens of his responsibilities. I would hope to have such faithful brothers and sisters walking with me in life and ministry as a Senior Minister. I am also glad that the Vicinage Council highlighted many of Mark's gifts and strengths in their report. Mark has an authentic and deep love for God, for the church, and for his family.

Nevertheless, the congregation has a responsibility to ensure accountability as a body that those in leadership are exercising their authority in ways that produces unity and health. From any angle you consider what has unfolded in recent years, it is clear that because of the ways in which authority has been wielded and decisions have been implemented, the church has suffered.

- The reputation of Park Street Church has been damaged locally.
- The reputation of Park Street Church has been damaged nationally.
- The reputation of Park Street Church has been damaged globally.
- The staff of the church is in disarray.
- Elders have resigned. Other former Elders have left Park Street because of their experiences with the leadership culture of the church.
- The global outreach and missionary partners of the church have been left insecure.
- A chasm has been introduced between the leadership of Park Street and the campus ministries they have traditionally supported.
- The financial strength of the church has been significantly drained.

- Extraordinary financial resources which should be used for ministry have been diverted to fund investigations.
- Attendance has decreased.
- The vote in February confirmed that a significant percentage of the church no longer has confidence in the leadership of the church.
- The simple and clear reading and application of the bylaws have been disregarded by leaders through convoluted interpretation to undermine the authority of the congregation.
- Small groups have been negatively impacted because of the palpable divisions which have been enflamed by how all of this has been handled.
- Friends who have shared life together for many years no longer talk to one another.
- Police officers must be present on Sundays not to protect the church from external threat, but to protect the church from one another because of the way all of this has been handled.

How can the leadership of the church continue on the path which they have embraced in light of all of this?

In a private letter to Mark which I sent him before the Annual Meeting in February, I encouraged Mark to not continue down the path he had chosen. I encouraged him to not hold the vote for which he had called because of the divisive nature of what the outcome surely would be. In part I wrote,

"It is time for Michael and Mark to diminish and Jesus to increase.

Go to Michael's home today or tomorrow offer your forgiveness to him for what he has done to you and your family. You must ask his forgiveness for ways in which you have hurt him and his family. On Sunday you and Michael must sit together behind the pulpit during the worship service, and when it comes time to preach, you must tell the congregation that you have forgiven Michael, and Michael must tell the congregation that he has forgiven you. Then you must turn to those who support you and exhort them and command them to forgive those who have spoken ill of you and have hurt you. Michael must do the same insisting those who have supported him must forgive those whom they have accused of wrongdoing, that they must seek forgiveness from those of whom they have spoken poorly.

*Sunday's referendum must be "Is Jesus above all?" Is he **really** above all? Can Jesus by his example and power bridge the divide which has come upon this beloved church?*

Jesus says, those who try to gain their life will lose it, and those who lose it for his sake will gain it. This is the moment for you in which you must decide which it shall be. This is the time in humility not to ask others whether you should bear your cross, but the moment YOU must pick up your own cross and bear it for the sake of the flock. Jesus gave up his life for those who wept for him at the foot of the cross as well as those who hurled insults at him. To the latter, he said, "Forgive them, Father, because they have no idea what they are doing." They were in the wrong, yet he still submitted to them and forgave them through his own sacrifice giving up his life.

"Why not be wronged?" Paul asks. He admonishes those in Corinth in this manner in order that the gospel would not be tarnished in anyway.

Love keeps no record of wrongs.

Love is not self-seeking.

Love never divides.

There is no greater love than the one who lays down his life for his friends.

The good shepherd on his own accord lays down his life for his sheep, even the ornery ones. He doesn't ask for the sheep's opinion whether he should or not.

Out of love for Christ and love for the church, both you and Michael need to stand together, and then step aside together out of leadership of the church and allow the church to continue on living in the unity which the two of you have forged through your example, sacrifice, and humility. The Lord will honor that and provide a new life for both of you that will be better than anything you now hope for at PSC by following the path that you are currently on. For the joy set before you, let go. Trust him.

If you do so, the tears and grace and mercy and forgiveness that will emerge from Sunday will lead to revival at Park Street and throughout this nation. It will be a holy moment, unexpected by all. It will stick a knife in the back of Satan and the dark powers who seem to have the upper hand right now. The vote will not accomplish that.

Give something for Christianity Today to write about that will resound from sea-to-sea for years to come in honor and glory to Christ. The vote won't."

Mark chose not to heed this counsel, and the divisions within the church have only grown deeper. Many have already left Park Street Church - wounded, discouraged, disillusioned. Hundreds more will do so in the coming days. If such patterns of leadership continue without a change of direction, all of this will surely be repeated again in the future.

I cannot express my love and respect adequately enough for Julian Linnell, Ray Kam, Tammy McLeod, Damian Long, Tim Leary, and Michael Balboni. They are exceptional, Christ-centered leaders, who have labored sacrificially for those they love at Park Street. They have ministered to me, encouraged me, prayed with me, and cried with me. I know their character because of the years they have spent consistently proving it to me through their tireless service first as congregants, then as staff members. You do as well. You know the imprint each of them has made upon your hearts. Their word is gold, their example worthy of following, and they have earned the respect of all who call Park Street their home because of their humble faithfulness day-after-day and year-after-year among you over two decades.

At this point, however, it is not even a matter of whether Michael's view of things is more accurate than Mark's or whether Mark was justified in removing me from staff or firing Michael or terminating other ministers in the past or whether Mark and the Elders should remove additional ministers from staff in the near future. At this point it is a question of the church's posture towards one another.

Shall the church be divided because Mark and Michael cannot find a means by which they might be reconciled? Shall the church be divided because the Elders lacked the dexterity to find a means by which

those serving in leadership could humble themselves and forgive each other, reconcile, and forge a new life together in service and humility? Is Mark or any other leader more important than the unity of the body of Christ committed to one another in love and humility which is the basis of the witness of the gospel? If the shepherds cannot lead in a way which produces unity and health even among themselves, the flock is in grave danger. When shepherds believe that it is better for the sheep to divide when the division is the result of their own deficient shepherding, the sheep who remain are in danger, not the ones who leave knowing they need to find a new shepherd and a new flock.

The accountability which is entrusted to the congregation in the bylaws was instituted for moments like this. It should be exercised. The church desperately needs a new direction. The congregation must act as difficult as such decisions may be.

I will never cease praying for you asking that God may pour out his Spirit upon those he loves at Park Street Church. May humility and love and forgiveness and mutual submission cover over the pain and transgression of the past so that vibrancy and life and unity may return to Park Street in the days to come. Do not give up on one another, but find Jesus in one another. Do for one another what Jesus has done for us, live worthily of the name you bear, and cling resolutely to one another and to Christ in his love. Be strong and courageous. The Lord is with you.

Your Brother in Christ,

Kris Perkins
Park Street Church 1997-2021