



**Church of God in Christ First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southern California**  
**Bishop Joe L. Ealy, Prelate**

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**July 17, 2012**

**Pacific Mount Olive Church Of God In Christ**  
**1385 East 21st Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90019**

*It is with much sadness but considerable resolve that I write to you. In my office as the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southern California, Church Of God In Christ ("First Jurisdiction"), I hereby inform you of my decision, in consultation with leaders of the First Jurisdiction, to no longer recognize Pacific Mount Olive Church Of God In Christ ("Mount Olive") as a local church affiliated with the First Jurisdiction. Accordingly, effective immediately, the First Jurisdiction will no longer solicit or receive reports from Mount Olive, and the church's involvement in any activities of the First Jurisdiction is no longer required or requested.*

*We have arrived at this sad conclusion following a concerted and determined course by the Board of Mount Olive that makes this outcome inevitable and necessary. No church can remain in the First Jurisdiction, or any jurisdiction of the Church Of God In Christ, nor should it expect to remain so affiliated, if the board of that church has engaged in the course of conduct that Mount Olive's Board has followed in this instance. Affiliation with the First Jurisdiction is a privilege, not a right, and with that privilege come certain advantages but also certain distinct responsibilities. Chief among these responsibilities is the obligation to comply with the rules and regulations of the Church Of God In Christ. This includes respecting and complying with rules and regulations that pertain to the orderly establishment of pastoral leadership at a local church in the Jurisdiction. The rules stipulate that the Jurisdictional Prelate is authorized to appoint a pastor under circumstances where a local church finds itself without a pastor, and pending such permanent assignment, the Prelate is recognized as the Pastor of the church.*

*The Board of Mount Olive has directly stated to me that it refuses to recognize me as the Pastor of Mount Olive, even though Mount Olive finds itself without a pastor at the present time and I have not permanently appointed a pastor. This express rejection of the rules and regulations of the Church Of God In Christ is but one of several determined and purposeful actions by the Board of Mount Olive that have convinced the First Jurisdiction that Mount Olive refuses to respect the authority of First Jurisdiction and of its Prelate. It is untenable for the church to reject and disdain the authority of the Jurisdiction and its Prelate at every turn and yet remain (indeed, insist that it remain) affiliated with the First Jurisdiction.*

*Other examples of the Board of Mount Olive's defiance and rejection of the First Jurisdiction and its Prelate have previously been recounted to the Board. For the sake of good order, herein I provide just a few of these actions that render the continued affiliation of Mount Olive with the First Jurisdiction untenable. As Jurisdictional Prelate and as Pastor of Mount Olive, I requested certain financial records of the church. The Board refused to deliver any financial records to me. As Jurisdictional Prelate and as Pastor, I called a meeting of the Board and membership of Mount Olive. The Board, in defiance of the Jurisdiction and of me as its Prelate and as Mount Olive's Pastor, cancelled the meeting. Finally, after much effort on my part to schedule a meeting, one was held, but the opportunity to have a productive exchange of ideas and perhaps reach mutually beneficial outcomes was sabotaged by certain Board members who have been the principal leaders of the Board's course in defiance of the Jurisdiction and its Prelate who refused to attend the meeting.*

*I have devoted a disproportionate amount of time and attention to the affairs of Mount Olive, caused by the defiance of the church's Board of the authority of the First Jurisdiction and me as its Prelate, in these matters. Of course, one of the areas of controversy and disagreement has been the Board's insistence in bringing and maintain the lawsuit in civil court against former Pastor Geric Kenebrew. I well understand that the Board, any board, has a fiduciary obligation and duty to pursue measures that appear calculated to seek the recovery of corporate assets claimed to have been wrongfully taken. Accordingly, I have said on many occasions that I do not question the church's legal right to pursue a lawsuit against former Pastor Kenebrew seeking the recovery of any funds or church assets that the Board alleges he wrongfully took. However, I questioned, and still question, the wisdom and propriety of a hard-headed insistence in continuing the litigation for the recovery of funds when a settlement was within reach to resolve the matter under terms that committed former Pastor Kenebrew to pay to the church the entire amount allegedly taken by him. I inquired whether it was wise to expend far greater sums in legal fees to recover a far smaller sum from former Pastor Kenebrew when he had agreed to repay to the church the sum in dispute. I mentioned that persisting in the prosecution of the case appeared likely to destroy the church, both the body of believers, and the physical structure, which is now dilapidated from neglect. This being a civil suit, the outcome of the litigation, even in the most optimistic terms that the church could hope for, would only yield a judgment to the church entitling it to recover a sum of money. Since that already could be achieved through settlement, the purpose of keeping up the litigation, other than to enrich the church's attorneys, was questionable. Leaders of the Board candidly disclosed to me that their objective of the litigation was not merely to recover the funds in question, but also to destroy former Pastor Kenebrew and to insure, to the extent that the Board considered it possible from the Board's efforts, that he never pastors another church. This kind of extreme motivation for continuing the litigation reveals the true heartbeat of the Board, at least of its leaders, in this matter.*

*Again, while Mount Olive, and particularly, its Board, has every legal right to carry on as it has been doing, even insofar as how disrespectfully the Board has treated the First Jurisdiction and its Prelate, Mount Olive has not done so free of consequences.*

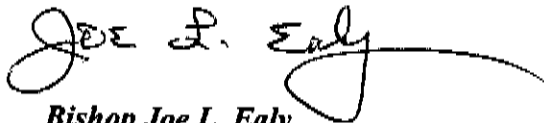
*And so we now arrive at the logical and necessary outcome of Mount Olive's, more properly, the Board of Mount Olive's, actions. You need not respect the First Jurisdiction and its Prelate, but when you refuse to do so, you cannot retain your affiliation with the Jurisdiction.*

*Your affiliation has been terminated effective immediately. Please feel free to seek affiliation with another jurisdiction of the Church Of God In Christ where you are willing to respect that jurisdiction and its leadership. Within the next thirty (30) days, I will await notification from you of any other jurisdiction of the Church Of God In Christ to which you wish to move your affiliation. I will communicate with the Prelate of such other jurisdiction regarding this matter, and we wish Mount Olive well in its new relationship.*

*Finally, should Mount Olive so wish, the First Jurisdiction will remain open to overtures from the church in the future, if changes can be demonstrated, that the church wishes to be considered in the future for affiliation with the First Jurisdiction. Perhaps selecting church leaders who demonstrate commitment to the best interests of Mount Olive and who will be guided by the desires of the church members they purport to represent, rather than their own personal agendas, would be a helpful start in such demonstration that the church now intends to deal more respectfully with the Jurisdiction and can be welcomed back.*

*I have spent much time in prayer for you and for your future. I will not stop praying for you, individually and collectively, and the First Jurisdiction wishes you well in your future endeavors.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JOE L. Ealy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

*Bishop Joe L. Ealy  
Jurisdictional Prelate, First Jurisdiction of Southern California*