

Email Exchanges re: Meeting Requests by McRaney and Ezell

To set the facts straight, I will share some a timeline of events, all supported and pulled directly from emails exchanged.

Oct. 8 7:09 AM - In an effort to reach out to you and meet with you, I wrote, "I am sorry it was impossible to make the summer gathering you had there with new execs. I would like to come to Alpharetta to engage with you in both personal encouragement and ministry dialogues when it is workable for you. I believe there are perspectives you can share with me directly and some I can share with you directly that may benefit us both and reduce the opportunity for confusion. I am packed through our Annual Celebration in early November, but maybe we can make it afterwards before Christmas.

I do believe that a phone call between us would be helpful until we can get together in person. You have a strong policy regarding people communicating poorly about partners. I am, as I am sure you will be too, concerned about what is being falsely spread around to our pastors, regardless of the origin. There are some strong miscommunications on the ground here about my relationship with NAMB and planters that is quite disturbing and is not beneficial to either of us. My capacity to serve the churches well and help us advance the mission here is being undermined by these communications. As I process how best to address the misinformation, I would like you to personally hear from me on what is being said and hear your perspectives on a positive path forward.

Look forward to talking in the coming days if possible and then our next time together as well."

Oct. 21 12:48 PM -- In an email to your office to express a desire to meet to clear up misperceptions and misinformation, and also communicate troubling matters brought to my attention by our Network pastors and leaders concerning NAMB staff, I wrote those concerns, and then wrote...

"I would like to connect face to face with you in the near future if possible. I am sure both of our schedules are stacked, especially until after Thanksgiving. However, I have some flexibility with Friday this week if you can and would like to connect in person. I can fly to you or you to Baltimore if it is workable. If my daughter at Furman does not make the travel team for this week's tournament, I will have next Tuesday, Oct. 28 open as well. I will know about Thursday this week if the 28th is open.

Kevin, I appreciate you and your partnership. I am troubled in some ways I noted today and some others as well. I have some pains from this relationship with NAMB that you are not aware of. You probably have some misinformation about my positions or actions or attitudes that I can clear up face to face, or I can apologize where necessary. You ask or tell, I will answer. I am certainly not above messing up, but I am concerned you have been given reflections that are cloudy and your staff here is not serving our joint partnership well. I think we can bring clarity and we will find we are more together in actuality, than what others are saying about us.

Oct 24 8:29 AM - I write to you and Jeff...

As I help us carry out the BCMD mission in the Mid-Atlantic region, I look forward to continued partnership and doing so with as much clarity as possible as we each carry out our given assignments and part of Kingdom ministry. While there are still challenges before us to address, we too desire to be a good partner and work in a fashion that advances His church in ways that honor Christ.

Certainly we would desire a meeting to help us move forward with greater clarity around agreements, practices and staff as we seek to advance our individual and collective missions.

Nov. 17 I am told in a longer phone conversation by Jeff Christopherson that he knew I had expressed a desire to meet with you to address some rumblings I heard from a couple of leaders concerning a supposed riff between NAMB and the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network. I was not aware of what they were, so I reached out to you in keeping with the biblical command in Matthew 5 & 18. In the phone conversation, Christopherson indicated he would be in Atlanta Dec. 1-3 or 1-4 and I could come to Atlanta and bring Tom or whoever I wanted, but never was anyone else considered. I was just seeking to follow the biblical mandate to find out the perceived concerns and talk with you directly.

Nov. 18 4:27 PM - Jeff Christopherson delivers me first notice of any kind that you and he would like me to bring some leaders with us. He wrote, *That would be great if you could come to Alpharetta on Dec 3. We have a number of meetings but would be happy to shift things around. We would really like your president and chairmen of your admin and general mission board to come as well. We would be happy to pay for the travel for those leaders.*

Nov. 19 – Nov. 28 – I travel out of state on annual leave and Thanksgiving

Nov. 19 10:46 AM – I wrote Ezell and Christopherson to communicate our desire for a meeting. My writings included...
“we have every desire to clear up relationships, any possible misunderstandings of actions, words, or intentions, and to restore to healthy new levels of partnership in ministry in keeping with the trust placed in us by those we serve and our entire SBC family. We are interested in sitting across a table to address issues, set a new trajectory, and not continue to let unhelpful chatter damage the Kingdom work assigned to both of us by God and Southern Baptists.”

Nov. 19 4:06 PM – I wrote to Jeff Christopherson...

“I have moved my cardiologist appointment from Dec. 3 in order to make that date available for Tom and me to come to Atlanta for a possible meeting with you and Kevin. Some time face to face will give us a needed opportunity to hear directly from each other and hopefully clear up some misunderstandings caused by conjectures, projections and lots of second and third hand information. If we can get some clarity from our positions of leadership and trust, we will be much better able to bring clearer

understandings and healthy productive conversations in the field concerning our assigned ministries.”

Nov. 19 5:57 PM -- Jeff Christopherson sends me an email and our CFO copied in which he wrote, *“we would like to reiterate our invitation for you, Tom, and your officers to meet with us in Alpharetta at the time that you suggested.”* Jeff added incorrectly that I had suggested for me, Tom and our officers to meet in Alpharetta, as until one day prior, there was NO request for such a group. AND, our President of our Board and Chair of Admin. Committee would not even be elected until December 2.

Nov 20 10:06 PM - *You send an email with three false claims that first identify what you believe to be concerns with a request to meet leaders from our convention.*

Nov. 22 10:22 AM email -- I communicated to you and copy Jeff Christopherson and also our CFO, Tom Stolle that I would be willing to meet with you and your leadership with my leadership. I also communicated in that email and my extended letter that we would not even elect a General Mission Board President until our Dec. 2, 2014 and this was also true for our Administrative Committee Chairman. It is utter ridiculous that I could meet your request of Dec. 3, 2014 for a meeting with a group of our leaders. As well, I wrote that I move an appointment with a new cardiologist on Dec. 3 and reworked our staff week schedule for me and Tom Stolle to meet with you in Atlanta. I accepted Jeff Christopherson’s invitation, rearranged my schedule, made plans, you choose not to meet without our leaders with me and Tom. I included...
I look forward to working with you to secure a time that is workable for everyone after I return back from my annual leave. Dec. 2 is not workable, as I have previously scheduled meetings with pastors, staff, and our board, including the training of new board members. However, you and I can work toward a future date that is workable for us and also our respective Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network and NAMB board leadership. We can also work to set an agenda as well. If it is important for our respective board leadership to be represented during this meeting, I would request that the meeting take place in our offices in Columbia.