

On SBC Today – May 1, 2016

[MD Pastor Responds to Denial Letter re Warren/Ezell](#)

Steve Wolverton 01-05-2016, 20:14

Speaking as a pastor in the Mid Atlantic Baptist Network, I wholeheartedly support Dr. McRaney's allegations and I totally impugn the veracity of this unsigned response to the 'Open Letter of Concern'.

First, the "smoking gun", signed by Dr. Ezell himself, is included in the linked documents posted. His juvenile threats to terminate funds within a year, and sooner if Dr. McRaney, or anyone else in the Network even so much as acted in any way he didn't deem cooperative, are repugnant. This letter is an exemplar for how not to engage in Christian ministry. I found it disheartening and embarrassing and I challenge any Christ Follower to read it without feeling the same. Furthermore, the indictments levied in the letter are false.

Second, the MABN President, Dr. Bill Warren personally told me that Dr. Ezell had convinced him that as long as Dr. McRaney remained the State Executive the funding was at risk. He then told me that he did not feel he could risk losing the funding and potentially losing staff so he did what he felt he had to do. All the while he claimed to love Dr. McRaney. Dr. Warren subsequently stated effectively the same thing to others, including once in my presence to a group of seven.

I believe that good men often do bad things while meaning well. I have never met Dr. Ezell personally but his letter speaks volumes. I know what Dr. Warren told me and I know it is not commensurate with the unsigned letter. There are many other things that I have uncovered in the process of investigating this matter. Even allowing for the most gracious interpretation of events, Dr. McRaney was given an unreasonable two weeks to address a list of invalidated and uncorroborated concerns; he was then terminated in a single board meeting a few days later. There were no legal, ethical, or moral concerns involved. This took place just prior to the 2015 SBC. Hmm.

It is time for repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. When I hear of and see Dr. Ezell tweeting out Proverbs 19:9 "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish", I could not agree more. Dr. McRaney has told the truth and I stand by him; as do many in the MABN. May God have His way with the other gentlemen; I trust He will and I pray for them daily.

[Reply](#)

On SBC Today – May 2, 2016

[Another MD Pastor Responds to Denial Letter re Warren/Ezell](#)

[Dr. Clint Scott](#) 02-05-2016, 13:22

I am a pastor in the Mid Atlantic Baptist Network, I support Dr. McRaney and believe that a great tragedy has taken place within of SBC community. Dr. McRaney had the total support of the Network and his leadership team shortly before his controversy began with Dr. Ezell. It has been stated to me personally by Dr. Bill Warren that pressure was being placed on the Network by Dr. Ezell through the withholding of financial support needed to honor budgeted items. This controversy was simply over the hiring of staff within the Network and the appointment of church planters within the Network without the consent and blessing of Dr. Ezell.

The Network's leaders decision to dismiss their executive leader without due process and without the support of the Network as a whole is repulsive. Some of the same men that brought this forward and caused it to be a huge fight are the same ones that have applied for the executive director job. A job that was only vacated because of Dr. Ezell's financial pressure, the lies of Network leaders, and the closed door meetings that remain under gag orders.

Dr. McRaney is a man of high moral character and sound judgment. He is a man that loves his family and seeks to do the will of the Father who sent him. I find in this man no reason for the actions of this Network or the actions of Dr. Ezell. It is my hope that we as Southern Baptist will once again support those that believe reaching the lost is more important than recognition in the eyes of men. We should spend our time making more of Jesus and less of our empire. Dr. Ezell and NAMB should be held accountable before this happens to more of our trusted brothers in the fight for the souls of men!

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