



40 North Forest Road Sonora CA 95370 - discoverlifesonora.org - office@discoverlifesonora.org - 209.532.3337

January 5, 2021

**VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
AND EMAIL TO [REDACTED]**

Bryan Vyhmeister
Susanne Vyhmeister

[REDACTED]
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Business Meeting
Date: January 24, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Dear Bryan and Susanne:

It is with sadness that I am informing you that at our next Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Business Meeting, to be held on January 24, 2021 at 1 p.m., a recommendation will be made to place you under church discipline. The meeting will be held at the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church at 40 N. Forest Road, Sonora, CA 95370 in the Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy field or in another location on the church or school campus depending on weather and COVID-19 restrictions. We will also offer the opportunity for church members to join the Business Meeting via Zoom. This specific agenda item will begin at approximately 2 p.m. There are other items on the agenda for the Business Meeting that will precede the church discipline agenda item.

As you know, you requested the transfer of your membership from the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church on October 26, 2020 (SDA Church Manual, page 51). The Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church Board initially recommended the transfer of your membership on November 12, 2020 after meeting with you in person on November 12, 2020 to discuss some concerns (SDA Church Manual, page 51-52). The first reading for transfer of your membership was subsequently made at in-person church on November 14, 2020 (SDA Church Manual, page 51-52). Unfortunately however, objections were received after the first reading on November 14, 2020 which were then referred back to the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church Board and which were considered by the board at its next meeting on December 8, 2020 (SDA Church Manual, page 51-52). As you also know, our pastors and two (2) of our elders thereafter counseled with you on December 10, 2020 regarding such objections. On December 15, 2020, you also met with the board once again at your request to address such objections.

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The Business Meeting referenced above has now been called (SDA Church Manual, page 64 and 128) as the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church Board has completed its review of this case (SDA Church Manual, page 64) and recommended church discipline. This letter is being sent to you at least two (2) weeks prior to the above-referenced meeting date (SDA Church Manual, page 65).

The bases for the recommendation of church discipline are as follows (SDA Church Manual, page 62):

- Violation of the law of God, such as... willful and habitual falsehood.
- Disorderly conduct which brings reproach upon the church.
- Persistent refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority or to submit to the order and discipline of the church.

You have the right to be heard in your own defense, introduce evidence, and produce witnesses at the Business Meeting (SDA Manual, page 65). The Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church Board will recommend to the members present at the Business Meeting that you be provided up to thirty (30) minutes for this purpose. However, the majority of the members of the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church present at the Business Meeting will adopt "Rules of Day" that may either lengthen or shorten that time.

The Business Meeting is open only to members of the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church and you do not have the right to bring legal counsel with you to the meeting (SDA Manual, page 65). If you should insist on bringing legal counsel, your legal counsel will be asked to leave (SDA Manual, page 65).

The majority of the members of the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church present at the Business Meeting will determine whether any discipline is warranted and, if they determine that discipline is warranted, the specific type of discipline: either censure or removal from membership (SDA Church Manual, page 63).

If a vote of censure is approved by a majority of the members of the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church present at the meeting (SDA Church Manual, page 65), your censure would begin immediately and would last for a period to be determined by the majority of the members present at the meeting (SDA Church Manual, page 63).

If censure is voted as the form of discipline, at the expiration of your period of censure, the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church members will assess whether you should be

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placed back in regular standing or whether further discipline is appropriate (SDA Church Manual, page 63).

If there is a vote of censure, it would result in removal of the privilege of election to any office while in effect (SDA Church Manual, page 63). You would have no right to participate by voice or vote in the affairs of the church or lead church activities, such as teaching a Sabbath School class (SDA Church Manual, page 63). You would not be deprived, however, of the privilege of attending Sabbath School, church worship, or participating in communion (SDA Church Manual, page 63). Your church membership would not be transferred during the period of censure (SDA Church Manual, page 63). As you may know, censure has two purposes: (1) To enable the church congregation to express its disapproval of the previous offense that has brought disgrace upon the cause of God, and (2) To impress offending members with the need for a change of life and reformation of conduct and to give the offending members a period of grace and probation during which to make those changes (SDA Church Manual, page 63).

If there is a vote of removal from membership by a majority of the members of the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church present at the meeting, you will be immediately removed from the membership of the Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA Church Manual, page 63). You however will be able to seek to be received back into church membership (SDA Church Manual, page 67). You also have a right to appeal for reinstatement (SDA Church Manual, Page 67-68).

My prayers are with you,

Yours in Christ,

Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Renner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nathan Renner, Senior Pastor

cc: Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist Church Board
Timothy Trujillo, Head Elder
Pam Palmer, Church Clerk