

Korean Central Presbytery of Presbyterian Church in America

미 국 장 로 교 한 인 중 부 노 회

P.O. Box 918, Prospect Heights, IL 60070, (773) 706-2080

Rev. Ju-Heon Lyu, Moderator Rev. Sungwoo Nam, Stated Clerk

A Public Statement from the Korean Central Presbytery

July 15, 2021

On July 13, 2021, the Korean Central Presbytery called a special meeting to discuss the complaint against the decision of Teaching Elder (TE) Joshua Min Chung at the 70th Presbytery meeting on April 13 and 14 of 2021.

The Korean Central Presbytery recognizes that it is made up of fallible men and we do not profess to be a perfect court of Christ's Church. We have tried our best to faithfully function according to the Book of Church Order standards.

To provide context, the Korean Central Presbytery had rendered the following judgment at the 70th Presbytery Meeting:

"Sexual harassment is unacceptable for Christians. In particular, the sin is aggravated because it is about what the pastor did to a member of his congregation. For such an offense, a certain period of suspension from the office seems appropriate. However, the leadership of CFC suspended his ministry for more than a year. Although this discipline did not comply with the BCO, it is sufficient in its content. Regarding recovery, the pastor reconciled with his victim, and regarding his relationship with God, he recognized his sin before God and relies on the blood of Christ. We judge that his relationship with God is restored as we consider the grace of God. We remind him to abide by the BCO, and we believe that he should return to ministry."

In response to the ruling above, a complaint was written and signed by nine Teaching Elders of the Korean Central Presbytery and sent to the presbytery, with the main thrust of this complaint being to motion for the Korean Central Presbytery to rescind the 70th Presbytery Meeting's judgment and to administer the censure of indefinite suspension.

The grounds for this complaint were:

- The Presbytery had misunderstood that TE Joshua Min Chung was under definite suspension from all ministerial duties for 1.5 years, but was

in reality only suspended from speaking at CFC for 1.5 years and his suspension from outside speaking engagements was actually 4 months.

- It was improper for the Presbytery to accept the restoration process of CFC as proper discipline.
- Questions were raised about the sincerity of TE Joshua Min Chung's repentance.

During the special presbytery meeting, the complainants' motion was amended to rescind the 70th Presbytery Meeting's judgment and to hold a retrial, rather than a censure of indefinite suspension, as administering a new censure would require a trial.

A two-thirds majority vote was required in order to pass this motion and it was not reached (22 voted for the motion, 12 voted against the motion, 1 voted abstention). The motion was voted down and the judgment of the previous presbytery meeting still stands.

The Korean Central Presbytery acknowledges that this situation has been a difficult one for many members of our churches and outside observers and we grieve for those that have been hurt. We regret that pain, division, and unrest has occurred, for the desire of the Korean Central Presbytery in this decision is the glory of God, the purity of His Church, and the keeping and reclaiming of disobedient sinners. Our hope and prayer are the rebuke of offense, the removal of scandal, the vindication of the honor of Christ, the promotion of the purity and general edification of the Church, and the spiritual good of believers (BCO 27). We trust in the sovereignty of Christ in all the decisions of the Church and look to him for wisdom and grace.

From the Korean Central Presbytery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sungwoo Nam', followed by a horizontal line.

Rev. Sungwoo Nam
Stated Clerk