

June 23, 2022

Dear Jon and Joy:

Thank you for your recent email offering to find a time to meet. Hopefully, we can arrange a time soon. One of the elders will reach out to you in a separate email to set that up. We appreciate you both and are praying for a mutually productive time together.

Before we meet, we as elders believe that we need to seek your forgiveness for the way we have handled these last several months in our interactions with you. As we have gone back over and reviewed the events and communications of these last months, we realize we could have listened better and been humbler in our approach and clearer in our expectations. In our own sense of being hurt, we sense we may have overreacted. We truly are sorry for any hurt that this has caused you. Considering this, we are discontinuing what came to be known as the “discipline process” and restoring you fully to whatever ministries you have been involved with at Emmanuel. We need to do much better at defining a process and clearly establishing expectations and pathways for dealing with conflict. We are committed to doing that in these months ahead.

We continue to search our hearts for God’s wisdom and direction as we lead the church. We desire to be the humble, grateful, Christlike, and moldable men that God can use to give council and leadership to this great family of His people.

While we are choosing to not go forward with any action, we do believe that there are some aspects of how you acted that were inappropriate and divisive in nature. We ask that you allow the Spirit of God to continue to work in your life and be open to anything that He may bring to you that would be contrary to His will for your life. We do this humbly knowing that we are all struggling with areas that need to be brought into conformity with His heart.

Jon and Joy, we do love you and pray God’s very best for you and your family. We have watched as you have raised your children and are pleased to see them faithfully following our Lord. This is not easy in these days, and we commend you for your leadership in this and other areas. Emmanuel has been blessed by your faith, your involvement and leadership. We hope to continue to partner with you in the days ahead.

Warmly,
The Emmanuel Elders