

December 14, 2022

Superintendent Tim Tarvin  
Shelby City Schools  
25 High School Ave  
Shelby, OH 44875

## **Re: Faith community response to misconduct in public school restrooms**

Dear Superintendent Tarvin,

Thank you for your service to the families of the Shelby City School District. Recently a school board member publicly stated there needed to be more conversations about the issue of public accommodations. As diverse clergy from one hundred one (101) congregations with families inside the district and/or in the surrounding areas, we are thankful the school board is inclusive of every stakeholder's viewpoints, including ours.

It is our understanding, during the November 21<sup>st</sup> school board meeting concerns were raised by parents regarding public safety in school restrooms. According to a news report, (1) concerned parents have compiled statements from at least ten different female students who feel unsafe using school restrooms. One mother stated a boy hugged her daughter against her will in the restroom which has led to her daughter not wanting to come to school. Additionally, another parent reported a transgender boy has made threats against girls.

In addition, you were quoted as saying, "three transgender girls at school use the girls' restrooms." In other words, three biological boys presently use the girls' restrooms.

The diverse faith community in North Central Ohio has historically supported restrooms corresponding to objective biological sex. We are including the following correspondences and subsequent media coverage to provide a silhouette of our region's local standards:

- Correspondence in 2016 sent by 102 lead area clergy to the school districts in Richland County advising schools to ignore the Obama Transgender Restroom Mandate.
- Policy paper in 2020 sent by 100 lead area clergy instructing the Ohio House Civil Justice Committee to preserve the Ohio Revised Code regarding restrooms from unlawful SOGI legislation (HB 369 & SB 11).
- Correspondence in 2021 sent by 117 lead area clergy directing federal and state officials to protect public accommodations and girls' sports from proposed unlawful federal and state SOGI laws (HR 5)

Allowing some students to have special privilege at the expense of the physical welfare of other students is unfair and misguided. This privilege, to randomly choose whichever restroom they desire, is based on arbitrary criteria that can daily change. **It is our expectation School Administration have a zero-tolerance policy to incidents of misconduct in school restrooms, locker rooms, and showers. As clergy, we will not sacrifice the safety and privacy of children on the altar of political correctness.** It bears worth repeating, the Bible says GOD is the "Father of Lights with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

As lead clergy representing one hundred one (101) area congregations, we are calling for all students to use the restrooms, locker rooms, and showers corresponding to their objective biological sex and for questioning students to have the choice of using three existing gender-neutral staff restrooms.

It is important to note that shortly after Target announced a restroom policy based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), criminal incidents abounded, (2-11) and the company sustained financial losses in the tens of millions of dollars. (12)

In the State of Ohio, parents have more school alternatives when there is perceived mismanagement. With open enrollment and options like home schooling, private schools and charter schools, it is in the best interest of a public school district to implement policies protecting privacy and safety. Future passage of the Backpack Bill is expected to further strengthen parents' grip of tax dollars. (13)

It is no small matter that a Virginia man's fifteen-year-old daughter was sexually assaulted last year while she was in the bathroom in Loudon County. The attack was committed by a teenage boy wearing a skirt who entered the girls' bathroom. This same student was accused of committing a second sexual assault against a girl at a different school. (14) The school district faces a lawsuit. Presently there is a Dayton-area school board currently facing a lawsuit for allowing students to use restrooms based on gender identity. (15)

In closing, with its restrooms based on subjective gender identity, Shelby Schools has had misconduct occur resulting in students unwilling to use public accommodations. To prevent further harm to its reputation, the district must separate its public accommodations by biological sex as previously done for generations past or risk decreasing student enrollment and even costly litigation. We believe our solution brings moral clarity and will best reflect concerns regarding dignity, privacy and safety. We look forward to your written response.

**The following lead clergy, representing one hundred one (101) area congregations are cosigners of this correspondence:**

Bishop Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church	Pastor Emeritus Steven Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist
Pastor Ray Seldon, Ontario First Wesleyan	Bishop Rick Lewis, Shelby Connect Church
Pastor Matthew Pond, Shelby First Freewill Baptist	Pastor John Bouquet, Savannah Bethel Chapel
Pastor Joe Nichols, ARK Empowerment Center	Pastor Bryan Schatzinger, Mansfield Calvary Chapel
Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community Church	Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ Church
Pastor Louis Blevins, Mansfield Latter Rain Church	Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Temple Baptist
Pastor Mike Rose, Hope on the Hill Chapel	Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal Church of GOD
Rabbi Bob Bauer, Crestline Beit El Elyon	Pastor Les Vnasdale, Ontario Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Pastor JC Church, Bucyrus Victory in Truth	Pastor Joseph Yerger, Mansfield 1st Evangelical Presbyterian
Pastor Brad Gentile, Shelby First Baptist Church	Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community Church
Elder Moe Hill, Grace Evangelical Free Church	Pastor Dan Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly
Pastor Christopher Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist	Pastor Mark Meyer, Lex GracePoint Church
Pastor Dink Porter, Mansfield Open Bible Church	Elder James DeWeese, Mansfield Providence Church
Rabbi William Hallbrook, Ontario Sar Shalom Ctr.	Pastor Tim Houston, Mansfield Church of GOD
Pastor Matt Merendino, Clear Fork Alliance	Pastor Joe Smith, Ontario Westside Baptist
Pastor Dan Zediker, Mansfield Mission Point	Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges Liberty Baptist
Bishop Greg Griffith, Willard Church of GOD	Pastor Chris Spencer, Crestline Grace Baptist
Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield Caesarea Baptist	Pastor Dr. Ricky Branham, Willard Ripley Chapel
Pastor Chris Replogle, Crestline Calvary Baptist	Pastor Taylor Howard, Mansfield Apostolic Holiness
Pastor Jason Price, Mansfield Victory Baptist	Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center	Pastor Dave Davenport, Ontario Faith Baptist
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Church	Pastor Jack Williams, Walker Lake Baptist
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community Church	Pastor John Temple, Loudonville Trinity Community Church
Pastor James Mitchell, Polk New Liberty Baptist	Pastor Chad Berry, Lexington New Liberty Baptist
Pastor David Koehler, Loudonville Baptist Temple	Pastor Bobby Edwards, Jesus Is Alive Holiness Church

Pastor Sam Flynn, Mifflin Little Flock Fellowship  
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare Church  
Pastor Layton Broome, Lakefork United Methodist  
Pastor William Strader Jr., Bucyrus First Alliance  
Pastor Paul Staton, Honeycreek Baptist Church  
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church of GOD  
Pastor Art Kennard, Shelby Maranatha Christian  
Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD  
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran Church  
Pastor Joshua Cole, Crestline Tabernacle of Praise  
Pastor Todd Grover, Ashland Maranatha Baptist  
Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community Church  
Pastor Robert O'Brian, Mansfield Apostolic Faith  
Pastor Rich Hurlles, Plymouth LifePoint Church  
Pastor Dave Parsons, Mansfield Zion's Refuge  
Pastor Paul Mathewson, Shelby Maranatha Bible  
Pastor Mike Wilson, Lincoln Heights Baptist  
Pastor Randy Raynes, Mansfield Fellowship Baptist  
Pastor John Campos, Bowman St Church of GOD  
Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Ontario Potter's House  
Pastor Ron Smals, Woodville Grace Brethren  
Pastor Dave Guild, Mansfield Foursquare Gospel  
Pastor Troy Wooten, Christian Life Center  
Pastor Mark Kline, Berea Missionary Baptist  
Pastor Jim Johnson, Mansfield Grace Temple  
Pastor Rick Sutter, Elm Street Freewill Baptist  
Pastor Dan Rebon, Bucyrus Father's Heart Healing Ctr.  
Pastor LaMont Lindsay, Book of Life Church  
Pastor Layton Broome, Hayesville United Methodist  
Pastors Les & Grace Farley, Lexington Irresistible Church  
Pastor Clint Zeigler, Mansfield Sovereign Christ Church  
Pastor Clyde Kerby, Hope & Healing Ministries  
Pastor David Mahon, Galion Apostolic Assembly  
Reverend El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer  
Pastor Danny Akers, Victory Rock Praise & Worship Ctr.  
Bishop Sylvester Ginn, Ontario Hesed Agape Fellowship  
Pastor Aaron Rose, Madison Fusion Church  
Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesley Evangelical  
Pastor Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church  
Pastor Dave Rentzel, Ontario Abundant Life Tabernacle  
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill Baptist  
Pastor William Cole, Mansfield Recovery Church  
Pastor Steven Conn, Bethel Freewill Baptist  
Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship  
Pastor James Hill, Mansfield Paradise Church  
Pastor James Spencer, Mansfield People's Baptist  
Pastor Matt Smith, Crestline Love Action Church  
Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside First Church of GOD  
Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Christian Fellowship Athletes  
Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend Church of Brethren  
Elder Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COGIC

**A written response to this clergy correspondence can be sent by email to [al.cooper@live.com](mailto:al.cooper@live.com)**

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- (10) "Bedford Police Arrest Man Wanted for Allegedly Recording Juvenile Girls in Store," by Police Chief John J. Bryfonski, Bedford Police Department, June 24, 2016, <https://bedfordnhpd.org/2016/06/24/bedford-police-arrest-man-wanted-allegedly-recording-juvenile-girls-store/>
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- (12) "The Target boycott cost more than anyone expected & the CEO was blindsided," by Hayley Peterson Business Insider, Apr 6, 2017, <https://www.businessinsider.com/target-ceo-blindsided-by-boycott-2017-4?op=1>
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