

To: Rev. Donald Gardner, Lead Pastor, VCBC Board of Deacons,

cc. Pastor Sam Wong, Church Moderator, Members of "Pastor Sam Wong Ordination Committee",

bcc. undisclosed recipients

Dear Rev. Don Gardner and Board of Deacons,

Ordination of Pastor Sam Wong

We understand from a recent church announcement that Pastor Sam Wong will be ordained shortly and you are organizing an "ordination committee" to assist in assessing the suitability of Sam Wong to be ordained. In this connection, we write to strongly object his ordination as we do not consider Sam Wong possesses many quality of a Pastor and lives a life "above reproach" in biblical terms.

The scriptures clearly stated a Pastor, called an overseer " ... must be blameless - not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable , one who love what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined." (Titus 1:7-8)

In the Members Bi-monthly Meeting (MBM) held on January 2013, a question whether the 3 pastors were working in conflicts was raised. Accordingly, the Personnel Committee (PC) chair called all the 3 pastors to attend an "open dialogue meeting" with a view to sort out their conflicts if any. After the meeting, PC reported "there were no big concerns with the three pastors", yet the **harsh language** (some documented as notes of the meeting) that Sam Wong used to **rebuke the Senior Pastor** and **challenge his leadership and integrity displayed his quick temper, losing self control and anger**. He **violently** trying to prove his case **with little respect to the elderly Senior Pastor** who has been serving our Lord dedicatedly over 40 years.

The cause of the conflicts was due to Sam Wong and another associate pastors refused to accept the management style of the new Senior Pastor, and felt being deprived of their freedom in carrying out his ministerial works. This reflected his **lack of humility, disobedience and rebellion against his superior**, a God sent servant called to take charge of the church since 2011.

With great disappointment, Sam Wong, together with the other pastor resigned on the same day to express their dissatisfaction to the Senior Pastor and the Church Leadership. Although in his resignation letter, Sam Wong said he made the decision after praying to the Lord, he nevertheless, mercilessly blamed his superiors and their management style for his resignation, a **strong sign of rebellion and immaturity**. Copy of his resignation letter is attached for your reference.

With unprecedented exception and approval of the PC chair, a Deacon who once called the Senior Pastor a "stumbling block" in his open letter to the church leadership, Sam Wong was given time to deliver a resignation speech. With words of vengeance, Sam Wong used the MBM as a platform to air his grievance, **condemning a long serving senior Deacon lying**, the Church Moderator prejudice and the Senior Pastor lacked integrity. Obviously **he was dominated by his anger** in the meeting, **lose self-control** while delivering these **unkind** words.

He **arrogantly** declared in the meeting that he would never come back to serve in VCBC, and asked the members to take his complaints and criticism serious and review the suitability of the Senior Pastor. Yet, a year later, he broke his own declaration and returned to serve at VCBC, a sign of **lacking integrity**.

Furthermore, in his resignation letter, Pastor Sam Wong maintained that he loved the church, yet being one of few pastors left at that time, he decided **to abandon his sheep and let them unattended**. Is this a way to show love and care of the congregation? Since his return to serve at VCBC, number of attendants in Sunday worship continues to decline and this, perhaps reflects some members' disapproval of Sam Wong serving as a pastor at VCBC, a church he deserted a year ago.

We trust that the above illustrated Pastor Sam Wong **immaturity**, and **lack of the quality of a shepherd**. He should not be ordained until a time he demonstrates spiritual maturity, confesses his inappropriate attitude and shows remorse on his attack against an elderly senior pastor and other church leaders. If he humbly confesses and repents in front of VCBC members and our Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps that is the time to reconsider his ordination. With direction of the Holy Spirit, we would be willing to accept his ordination at that time.

We beg you to reconsider your decision to recommend ordination Pastor Sam Wong.

Humbly submitted by:

50 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ada Sit | Annie Fung | Anderson Lai | C. C. Chow | Cynthia Leung |
| Cynthia Moy | Daisy Au | Elean Lai | Ellen Li | Elsie Lui |
| Frankie Fung | Grace Man | Irene Leung | Jenny Wu | J. W. Li |
| Kelly Chan | Laurence Chen | Linda Yap | Mabel Chan | Patricia Chen |
| Rita Hoi | Sammy Hoi | Susan Lum | Tennie Ho | William Ho |
| Winston Wong | Helen Cheung | Wing Fat Wong | Raymond Shum | |
| Ivy Shum Kam Yip Kwok | Lam Yu Shuk Mi | Cyndy Lee | Grace Lo | Cindy |
| Ma Emily Chiu | Anna Chan | Amy Chan Chui-Tee | Rosa Yip | Tim |
| Ho Agnes Feng | Bronte Wong | Yee Chong Lau | Ida Chu | Fong |
| Lau Lian Co | Karen Lin | Ellen M Lau | Sai Ying Li | Francis Lin |