

Ltr #1

# United Evangelical Church

(UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)  
EAST AVENUE & DILLON STREET  
BALTIMORE 24, MARYLAND

PAUL A. RASCHE  
PASTOR

TITUS LEHMANN, D.D.  
EMERITUS

CHURCH OFFICE  
BROADWAY 6-0393

PARSONAGE  
BROADWAY 6-0621

Dear Member of United Evangelical Church:

We, as the members of your Church Council, greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of His Church and our Lord.

By the Constitution of United Evangelical Church (our United Church of Christ), recently put into effect, we have the responsibility of making an annual study of our membership as to the status of activity or inactivity on the part of our members. In the section of the Constitution on Membership (Article 2), it is stated in Section 5:

"Any member who fails to fulfill the responsibilities of church membership for a period of one year shall be notified that he is classified as an inactive member. If the same situation prevails after a second year such inactive member shall again be notified as to his status and unless remedial action is taken by said member, his name shall be deleted from the membership rolls." (page 6 of Constitution)

As we have come upon your record we note an absence of activity - a poor record in terms of attendance, communions or contributions. If the record is correct, and if you are not either too aged to participate in church membership, absent from the city at college, serving in the armed forces of our nation, or chronically ill - this absence of activity would seem to indicate a real lack of concern for your Christian life at United Evangelical Church.

In fulfilling our duties as Council members we must admonish you to reactivate yourself, presuming you are not in one of the categories mentioned above, so that your membership will remain valid. Those in the categories aforementioned are maintained in their membership as long as that condition or status continues. For all others, continued inactivity brings deletion or suspension from the church rolls after two or more years of inactivity.

Will you kindly fill in the enclosed form and return to the church office. If we do not hear within a month, we will assume an unconcern on your part and remove your name from the records. This we do not want to occur, however, and would much rather you resume your membership at United Evangelical Church. We need you here and you need the church. We want you here, and we are hoping you want to continue to be a part of this your church. May we hear good news from you and note a resuming of activity in membership.

In Christian concern,

CHURCH COUNCIL

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*Letter #2*

Dear Member:

The Spiritual Committee, in reviewing the membership of our church family for the Official Church Council, has discovered that, while certain elements of your membership are in good order, certain other elements are a bit weak. We note the record of contributions to the church and the attendance at the Sacrament of Holy Communion, but the attendance record is not as it should be. Thus may we, in the name of the Council and the church at large, invite you to be more constant in your attendance at the services of divine worship. If there is any reason for non-attendance, such as working schedules on Sunday, the care of the aged or sick, or any other legitimate reason, which should be incorporated in your record for future reference, we would appreciate receiving this information.

Since membership with United Evangelical Church implies steady contributions, consistent attendance at the Sacrament of Holy Communion and faithfully presenting yourself at the services of worship, we will look forward to your presence with us in God's House.

Respectfully,

The Spiritual Committee,  
for the Church Council of  
United Evangelical Church

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*Letter #3*

Dear Fellow Christian:

The Church Council after a complete study and review of your church records which includes attendance, communions, and contributions for the past few years sorrowfully informs you that your membership is in default.

According to the Constitution recently approved by the congregation a person in order to continue in active membership in the church must maintain regular attendance at divine worship; regular partaking of Holy Communion; and regular financial contributions according to his or her financial ability.

The Church Council will gladly review your membership standing and upon reassurance of your promise to abide by the constitution reactivate your membership.

Unless some effort is made by you to reactivate your membership within one month from receipt of this letter the Church Council will have no alternative but to delete your name from its roll of membership.

Will you ponder this matter in your heart and we are sure that with thoughtful prayer your decision will be one of re-dedication of yourself to active membership in your church.

Respectfully yours,

THE CHURCH COUNCIL  
UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

Church Council, United Evangelical Church:

           I desire my membership to remain 'active' at United Evangelical Church and promise to fulfill the requirements of regular contributions, regular attendance at morning services and at the Holy Sacrament.

           I desire my membership to remain 'active' at United Evangelical Church, but cannot fulfill the responsibilities of membership because I am aged, chronically ill, away at college or am in the armed forces.

           I wish to withdraw my name from membership at United Evangelical Church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_