



## Addendum

### Helpful Summaries to the RLC Council Position Statements

The Congregational Council of Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC), Juneau, Alaska, conflict can be summarized:

*A small group of detractors at RLC, who sat on council resorted to bullying tactics to install themselves as council officers. Although they were later removed from office, Bishop Wickstrom, acting without constitutional authority, reappointed the ousted president to facilitate an unconstitutional congregational vote (with less than an announced 2/3 vote threshold) aimed at ending Pastor Perkins' call and prematurely halting the congregation's discernment process. While Bishop Wickstrom retired weeks later, the RLC Council rejected the unlawful attempt to remove Pastor Karen. This apparently prompted Bishop Oslovich to continue pursuing the pastor's removal (possibly allowing Bishop Wickstrom to covertly participate) through a distorted \*C15.11 / †S17.11 adjudication process. This culminated in the wrongful removal of Pastor Karen from the roster, the awkward appointment of a part-time interim pastor, and the continued staging of undocumented, non-transparent, and exclusive events at RLC. These include an unconstitutional and hastily called annual meeting designed to install a new council loyal to the detractors, undermining constitutional governance, rejecting congregational unity, and perpetuating injustice.*

To help those interested in learning more about this conflict, the RCL Council has broken out the issues and explanations in separate "positions statements." This addendum has what are intended to be "helpful summaries" of these position statements. As to where to start:

- If you are most motivated by our call to work for justice with humility and integrity, the position statement [Challenge to Act Justly, Seek Truth and Fulfill Fiduciary Duty](#) may speak to you.
- If your highest priority is commitment to the covenants of baptism, ordination and election to other offices, position statement [Authoritarianism, Secrecy and Complicity](#) is where you may want to start.
- If you are most concerned about the "financial crisis" and believe RLC can't afford to focus on mission right now, or if you want to know what is happening with the congregation's money and why the budget the congregation passed for 2024 was neither followed nor reported, see the addendum *Money Over Mission* to the position statement [Authoritarianism, Secrecy and Complicity](#).
- If you care about the constitutional norms, we agree to share in the ELCA, or if you want this to go away, you would have to go back in time and prevent Bishop Wickstrom from violating our constitutions, allowing personal connections to substitute for complete and accurate information, and involving more people in the wrongs with subsequent smokescreens, please look at position statement [Understanding Constitutional Violations](#).
- If you want to know why we are bothering you, please look at the daily reality at our church and its mission and programs that affect the most vulnerable people in Juneau, or if you care about legal exposure, and the associated costly risks to the image of RLC, please start with position statement [What Happens Next and Your Involvement](#).

It is profoundly challenging to confront the possibility that those we have entrusted with our church's leadership may have betrayed that trust. Many within RLC's congregation, including its council, officers, and Pastor Karen, have grappled with this painful realization. Some members still place their trust in these leaders, despite the unconstitutional, unjust, and at times shameful actions of former and current bishops, as well as long-time congregation members—some of whom were once friends. These leaders have exploited such trust to shield their actions. However, past righteous deeds and reputations do not provide immunity to commit wrongs.

The actions of Bishop Wickstrom, Bishop Oslovich, Vice-President Swenson, and Attorney Manzella could expose them and the Alaska Synod to legal and ecclesiastical liabilities for fraud, gross misrepresentation, and misconduct. This includes facilitating others' improper behavior, which significantly undermines the ethical foundations of our church governance.

Fiduciary duty for members of the synod council is defined by an expectation to act in good faith and in the best interests of the synod and the wider church community. Similarly, fiduciary duty for a Presiding Bishop entail acting in good faith and in the best interests of the ELCA. This shared responsibility includes a commitment to uphold the church's mission, adhere to its constitutions, and manage its resources responsibly and ethically.

Such fiduciary obligations leave no quarter for covering for, nor turning a blind eye to malfeasance for the sake of a friend's reputation, to protect the office, the synod, or the ELCA, nor does it allow shying away from involvement or not stepping up in challenging times. Those who cannot accept such responsibility often resort to resignation when faced with significant malfeasance by their leadership because failure to act may lead to complicity.

The unjust actions of both bishops, the small group at RLC, your fiduciary obligations, and the risks of turning a blind eye are detailed in RLC Council's Position Statement [Challenge to Act Justly, Seek Truth and Fulfill Fiduciary Duty](#).

## **What Happens Next and Your Involvement**

The bishops' support for a dissenting faction and the improper appointment of an interim pastor are an attempt to manipulate governance through unconstitutional meetings, and the deliberate exclusion of loyal congregation members from decision-making. The dissenting faction uses tactics such as gerrymandering membership lists, scheduling a rushed and unprepared annual meeting, and undermining the legitimate RLC Council.

The RLC Council is poised to initiate extensive outreach, engaging all Alaska Synod congregations and councils, other ELCA churches beyond the synod, and the wider community of partners who rely on RLC's ministries and programs. Many have repeatedly asked, "What can we do?" We have diligently pursued every possible avenue that would be more discrete. RLC now has the focus of the state on our church body. RLC has prepared draft letters and petitions, ready to circulate, which highlight the ongoing harm caused by the degradation within RLC. Plans include exposing the involvement of those complicit in covering up the malfeasance committed by bishops.

RLC will also proceed with discovery, depositions, and other preparatory legal actions scheduled during a conference with the judge overseeing the Brendle lawsuit. This phase will further expose the complicity of both bishops with the small faction undermining RLC, its leadership, congregation, ministries, and the broader Juneau Community. Additionally, the RLC Council is filing with the court a motion regarding their “staged annual meeting” on January 26, 2025, which the council considered unconstitutional, invalid and did not attend. As the Plaintiffs rushed this meeting after the conference with the judge, the council is asking the court for an expedited hearing in the coming weeks to nullify the illegitimate actions taken at their “staged annual meeting.”

Should Bishop Oslovich continue his uncritical support of former Bishop Wickstrom’s actions (and possibly continued secret involvement)—potentially enabled by his non-involvement—a dedicated group of RLC members is prepared to use their resources to visit every congregation and council. They will present evidence of the bishops’ malfeasance, including emails, letters, and recordings from security cameras (with posted warnings), to illustrate the risk of similar interference in their affairs, including potential unconstitutional removals of their pastors. This group is expected to seek support in advocating for censure of Bishop Oslovich at both the synod council and 2025 Assembly for willful disregard or violation of the church’s constitutions and bylaws.

The forthcoming events and the potential impact of your involvement (or lack thereof) are detailed in RLC Council’s Position Statement [What Happens Next and Your Involvement](#).

## **Call to Action**

Please urge Bishop Oslovich to reflect on and address the wrongs of the past two years. Specifically, request Bishop Oslovich declare, upon further reflection, Bishop Wickstrom’s actions taken with regard to the RLC June 9<sup>th</sup> congregation meeting were unconstitutional, the \*C15.11 / †S17.11 adjudication he declared is moot, his appointment of an interim pastor for RLC has ended, and that Pastor Karen has not been removed the Alaska Synod roster.

*Prepared by Congregation Counsel of Resurrection Lutheran Church Council and reaffirmed as an official position statement by the Council on September 18, 2025, on information and belief, subject to reasonable amendment by Counsel, with concurrence of the Congregation President.*