

February 14, 2008

Bishop [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reference: Resignation of Eric A. Söderlund

Membership record number [REDACTED]

Ward in which records reside: Plano 5th Ward, Plano Texas Stake

Address: [REDACTED]

Birth date: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

This letter constitutes my formal resignation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is effective immediately. I hereby withdraw my consent to being treated as a member and I withdraw my consent to being subject to church rules, policies, beliefs and discipline.

I have not undertaken this action lightly but have considered it deeply and carefully over a long period. I am not going to be dissuaded and I am not going to change my mind. I have made this decision with the full understanding that, according to the Church Handbook of Instructions ("CHI"), my resignation cancels the effects of baptism and confirmation, withdraws the priesthood I have held, and revokes temple blessings. I also understand that in the extremely unlikely event that I would want to be readmitted to the church, I can gain such readmittance by baptism only after a thorough interview.

As I am no longer a member, I want my name permanently and completely removed from the membership rolls of the church. In accordance with the procedures outlined in the CHI, please forward this request without delay to President [REDACTED] along with the appropriate administrative action form to update the church records to indicate that I have voluntarily resigned my membership. Please indicate on the administrative action form that I have resigned for ethical reasons.

I request that my name-removal request be forwarded without delay to the stake president in accordance with the CHI. I will check with you in one week if you have not already notified me by then that it has been forwarded to President [REDACTED]. Please inform President [REDACTED] that I waive the thirty-day waiting period during which the stake president may hold the request in order to give me the opportunity to rescind. I have no intention of rescinding my resignation, as I have considered this step much longer than thirty days already. Since the thirty-day period is obviously intended to be for my benefit alone, I have the legal right to waive it, and I do so. Per our recent email correspondence, I understand that neither you nor President [REDACTED] has initiated church disciplinary action against me at this time. Please ask President [REDACTED] to notify me when he has forwarded my request to church headquarters. Notification may be sent by email to equalitytime@gmail.com. No other correspondence or contact from church representatives acting on behalf of the church is necessary or desired.

I assure you that I have not taken this action because I was offended by anyone at church. I have great love and respect for the many good people of the Plano 5th Ward and I appreciate the warm relationships I have developed with you and many of the members of the church in the years during which I was a member. I harbor no feelings of ill will toward any member of the church. I also assure you that I have not taken this action because of any desire to sin or inability to live up to church standards. I simply no longer believe in the foundational truth claims of the church and feel that the church is antithetical to the values I hold most dear: respect for truth and recognition of the worth and dignity of all human beings regardless of race, gender, belief, or sexual orientation. If you would like further understanding of my decision, feel free to visit my personal web log at www.equalitysblog.typepad.com.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Söderlund

cc: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Member Records Division
50 E North Temple Room 1372
Salt Lake City UT 84150-5310

The State of Texas

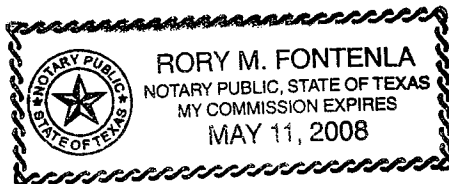
County of Dallas

Before me, a Notary Public, on this day personally appeared Eric A. Söderlund, known to me (or proved to me on the oath of _____) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the forgoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purpose and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 14th day of February
A.D. 20 08

Rory M. Fontenla

Notary Public, State of Texas



Rory M. Fontenla

(Print name of Notary Public here)

My commission expires the 11th day of May 2008