
From: Wendy Blacker
To: Christian Mathis; Moderator; Jim Mein
CC: Brianna Roach
Sent: 22/08/2011 2:27:47 PM
Subject: RE: Knox Headmaster's reply to our letter re lies in your combined press release of 13th December 2009

Dear All

I would normally agree, but my understanding in this particular instance is that the letter was specifically targeted; it was sent to the School and each of the members of the School Council. In previous instances, the letters jointly signed by the Church and the School have been proactive, but in this case it is reactive (to the particular letter). Consequently, it seems to me to be a question of the person to whom the letter has been sent responding.

Kind regards
Wendy

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-----Original Message-----

From: Christian Mathis [mailto:christianmathis@nsw.uca.org.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2011 10:44 AM
To: EXT - Moderator; EXT - Jim Mein; Wendy Blacker
Subject: RE: Knox Headmaster's reply to our letter re lies in your combined press release of 13th December 2009

Hi Niall,

The protocol us for such letters to be signed jointly by both the Church and Knox.

Wendy / Jim - do you agree?

Christian

Christian Mathis ANZIIF (Snr Assoc) CIP, Dip.CII Manager Risk & Insurance Services

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-----Original Message-----

From: Moderator
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2011 6:03 AM
To: Jim Mein; Wendy Blacker
Cc: Christian Mathis
Subject: RE: Knox Headmaster's reply to our letter re lies in your combined press release

of 13th December 2009

Dear all,

Is it appropriate for this letter to be sent on behalf of both the school and the church, or is there a need for me to respond on behalf of the church and if so what is the appropriate response.

Niall Reid
Moderator
Uniting Church in Australia (Synod of NSW & the ACT)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Mein
Sent: Sat 8/20/2011 8:22 PM
To: Wendy Blacker
Cc: Christian Mathis; Moderator
Subject: FW: Knox Headmaster's reply to our letter re lies in your combined press release of 13th December 2009

Are you happy for Rob's letter to go out?
Regards, Jim/

-----Original Message-----

From: Rob Wannan [mailto:wannanr@kempstrang.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2011 5:34 PM
To: Moderator; John Weeks - Knox
Cc: Jim Mein
Subject: RE: Knox Headmaster's reply to our letter re lies in your combined press release of 13th December 2009

Dear Moderator and Headmaster

I propose to send this on Monday and would welcome any comments.

Many thanks
Rob

Dear Mr and Mrs Lamond

I regret that you do not believe that John Weeks' letter dated 10 August 2011 responds satisfactorily to the issues raised by you. That letter, although it does not say so on its face, was also intended to be a response by me on behalf of the School Council.

Let me state categorically that there was never any intention to lie or mislead anyone by anything said by the School or the Church in its or their Media Statements or other communications. We would have, as I hope you realise, been acting improperly had we approached any victim who was represented by a solicitor or where the proceedings, taken by the Police as a result of that victim's allegations, had not been finally determined by the Court.

I acknowledge that in retrospect it may have been better in the circumstances to say in the Media Statement dated 15 December 2009 that "WHERE POSSIBLE, counseling has been offered on a confidential basis to the victims and their families".

We acknowledge that Guy has carried a heavy burden and the effect of that on you and your family. On behalf of the Headmaster and the School Council, I would again like to reiterate our deepest regret and our sincerest sorrow for what occurred and offer our apology unreservedly.

Yours sincerely

Rob Wannan

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Lamond [mailto:**REDACTED**]
 Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:18 PM
 To: mod@nsw.uca.org.au; Rob Wannan
 Subject: Knox Headmaster's reply to our letter re lies in your combined press release of 13th December 2009

To the Moderator UCA and Chairman of Knox - Today 17th we received a letter from Mr. Weeks dated 10th - we have had nothing from you two gentlemen, you, together with all of your fellow Synod committee members and Knox Councilors, have not even favored us with the courtesy of an acknowledgement of our letters to each of you !

Sadly Knox apparently believes in snail mail, unlike UCA, and does not publish its or its Councillors emails addresses so please excuse us Mr. Wannan for using your office address.

Weeks response in no way excuses the lie " Counseling, has been offered on a confidential basis, to the victims and their families" in your Media Statement of 15th December 2009.

In essence he acknowledges the lie - stating that the police/law prevented you from ascertaining/contacting any of the victims nor any of their parents at that time - nor did you ever contact my wife and I.

He acknowledges that you became aware of the criminal acts in February 2009 and offers the excuse that the police would not inform Knox of the victims - and offers a pathetic ill-informed statement that they wrote to every Old boy on Knox data base ! And their parents - No !

Pathetic, as many old boys including my sons are not on that data base. Why not to every past student, and their parents, who had been involved with those criminals ? Knox must have had this information available.

In effect Knox, as we have said, did nothing and lied to the Media, the public, the Knox community, its past students and parents and presumably mislead the Monitor of the UCA into signing that lying Media release.

In the 10 months from February 2009, and ever since, Knox, hiding behind the excuse of the law/police, apparently did nothing to ascertain and help the students involved whilst the Knox community seethed with fear, facts, misinformation and rumors.. A few simple enquiries within the Knox community would have readily identified the victims and their families.

We are left with the opinion we expressed in our letter that Knox's failure to assist the victims and their parents at that critical time, in our opinion, was cowardly and dishonorable conduct which shames both the College and the Church - and we sincerely hope that if such tragic events occur in the future you will not hide behind the excuse of the law/police but will see your students and their parents needs as your first priority.

Alison and Bob Lamond

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