

Dear Parishioner:

This may—or may not—be my final letter in this series to keep you informed as to the status of my efforts to restore the funds that were consolidated in 2016 to their rightful place. As many likely know from the email dispatched late Friday by the rector, my action was dismissed. I am both disappointed with the decision and relieved that the financial burden placed on my family is now lifted. I thank those who supported me, both verbally and financially.

As I stated on the savethechurchyard.org site back in September when the court refused to order the site taken down (“[Where Are We?](#)”) dismissal was one of the two possible outcomes, and has resulted in this “lose-lose” outcome. I “lose” because this avenue to restore the funds has been closed. The church “loses” because they have not been cleared of wrongdoing. The court ruled that I lack “standing” to bring the action. It did not reach any conclusion or hear any evidence of whether the consolidation of the funds was proper or improper. The cloud of fiscal irresponsibility continues to hang over Caroline Church, as well as questions of how/why classifications of funds were changed in annual audits without explanation. So many other questions remain unanswered.

I have spent much time and money trying to right this wrong. Some of you are upset at the money the church has spent, which is understandable. More so when you when you look at what those legal fees were for. Caroline Church spent that money to try to accomplish just two things. First, an unsuccessful effort to silence me by shutting down the savethechurchyard.org site. I know more than half my legal fees went to pay to keep the site up and keep you informed. Second, it was spent on the successful effort to dismiss the case so the church did not have to reveal the facts, or face the issues raised by the lawsuit. Therefore the legal fees did not go to absolve their actions and/or get a ruling that the consolidation of funds was proper. Again, that cloud remains.

So, at least in this world, it is Caroline Church parishioners and the community at large who must judge whether those funds, given by donors for specific purposes, are being used properly—or whether the trust placed by those donors has been breached.

It is truly unfortunate that the church has been secretive about the facts surrounding its finances. I have strived to be open, honest and transparent in providing you facts and information on this matter and will continue to do so. The judge’s written decision to dismiss and a few other legal documents related to the process have been posted on the site for all to see. I remain available to answer your questions and provide any documents I may have to assist you to come to a conclusion based on facts rather than speculation. I wish **all** of you—regardless of your position on the matter—the best as you continue on your faith journey.

Chris Haring
March 7, 2020