

Action of Session

Whereas you assure the session that you are unwilling to conform with the position of the church of Christ in the matter of Public Dance and Balls -

therefore we find it necessary to act in harmony with the Christian Church in this matter, and to set you aside from the regular membership of the church until such time as you feel you can yield conformity.

And it is further Resolved, That we do this with the deepest regret, with the motive to be faithful in the discharge of duty, as rulers in the house of God, with none but the kindest feelings toward those concerned, and still ready to do all possible in our power to give aid in any way whatever in attaining to a satisfactory ^{spirit} ~~state~~.

Read further, that this action has not been taken hastily, but only after months of patient endeavor to teach the truth on this subj., and it is only when reassured that conformity will not be yielded that such action is taken.

Castroville
California



Jan. 21st 1851
Castroville

Castroville Parsonage
May 11th 1894.

Dear Friend Jimmie:-

I enclose a copy of the action taken by session, last night; and while your father seemed to think it not wise, and you may also, I wish to state to you this explanation. Our session is not a law making body. We cannot make, nor unmake the positions taken by the Church. We are to administer in behalf of the Church; our position in the matter is fixed, first by our Confession of Faith, in the Larger Catechism, and then farther in the General Administration of the Church down through all her deliverances on the subject.

It would not be right for us, ~~to~~ either to come up the matter from the knowledge of our Mission Board or to change the position of the Church in our congregation, when people cannot see as the Church does, we do not ask them to change beliefs, but merely conform to her position in their conduct.

It is ~~not~~ not because you do not see the dangerous influences of the dance, but because you

am unwilling to conform your conduct to ~~the~~
what the Church judges is best.

Our action of session is not to condemn
you in any way. It is simply the only ^{thing} left for
us to do. We have delayed a long while in the
hope of having you retained. It is because it seems
wrong for us to delay longer that we act now.
And yet the door is ever open when due con-
formity can be rendered.

Another thing if you can ~~live~~ ^{live} with Christ and
also have the influence of the dance shown about you
our action can not interfere with your relation
to Christ. It simply removes the responsibility
of the matter from us, and leaves it with you.
So our would be more anxious to see you develop
spiritually than I. I think it will be harder for
you, if you continue in the dance. Your future course
in life will show whether this is true. I know the
Church can help to develop spiritually those who are
in harmony there. Our action does not change in
any degree my personal feelings toward you, nor
change my interest in you, nor desires to help you just
the same as formerly. ^{I think it will in any way be an injury to}
you. Very sincerely, J. F. Lawson