

SHIPLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

STRATEGIC CONSULTING • COMMUNICATIONS • RESEARCH

March 19, 2004

Rev. Kenneth Wheeler
Assistant to the Bishop
Greater Milwaukee Synod
1212 S. Layton Blvd
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Dear Reverend Wheeler:

My company, at great time, effort and expense, has compiled a comprehensive list of every ELCA perpetrator of clergy sexual abuse.

This letter serves as my personal apology for a clerical error on that list that erroneously transposed your name with the name of a perpetrator, Richard O. Bidwell. This information was taken from an article published in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* on July 14, 1992 and can be found at www.reformation.com under "Lutheran Ministers."

I deeply apologize for this error and am communicating this apology to all persons who may have received this list, and others who may have obtained the list from third parties.

Your reputation within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America speaks for itself. You are a devoted minister and have stood up for the protection of families in the Lutheran Church across the country. You are a genuine hero within the church.

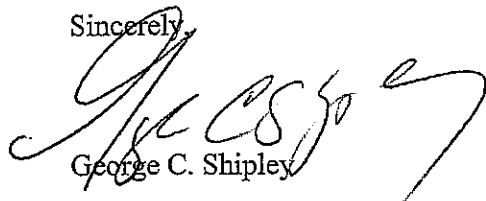
Many lawyers across the nation, including lawyers that represent the families in the *Doe v. ELCA* lawsuit, have asked and requested for a comprehensive and complete list of any and all complaints, cases, filings, and reports of clergy sexual misconduct in the ELCA Churchwide organization. Not only has ELCA refused these requests, it does not have an internal reporting system within the organization.

We have, through every publicly available source, attempted to compile our own comprehensive list for the protection of children and families such as those in the *Doe* case. ELCA's recalcitrant position on open reporting and access to information is exactly the problem which created the clerical error for which I now apologize.

We would hope that you would join the families and children in the *Doe* case in their request that ELCA begin a process of national reporting and audit so that there will be no more victims.

Again, my most abject personal apology for the clerical error.

Sincerely,



George C. Shipley