

## PETITION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr.  
Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith  
723 S 45th St,  
Louisville, KY 40211

Dear Bishop Gates:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith (P.C.A.F.) International. I request that the Board of Bishops revisit and reverse its decision to elevate women to the office of district elder. Furthermore, request that women not be elevated to the office of the bishopric in accordance with the Holy Scriptures.

In Matthew 10:1-4, Jesus called twelve men to serve as disciples and “he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” acknowledged the devotion of women throughout his ministry. However, the Lord Jesus did not ordain women as disciples/apostles to fulfill the apostolic commission.

Acts 14:23 states, “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.” Paul and Barnabas following the example of Jesus and as directed by the Holy Ghost, ordained holy men as leaders for each of the churches.

Apostle Paul, gives the qualifications for church officials in 1 Timothy 3:2 (KJV). He clearly states, “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;” Therefore as we examine Paul’s teachings, a female, although essential to ministry, does not qualify to serve as a bishop.

This petition in no way is intended to discount or minimize the contribution that great women contributed to the Kingdom of God and continue make to the Church of Jesus Christ. Most of our churches are majority female and serve in numerous positions of ministry. However, from the Garden of Eden through the current day, it has never been God’s desire that women have authority over men in leadership.

Thank you for revisiting the board’s earlier decision and taking corrective action.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

***Please complete, scan and email this petition to [ctcm8419@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ctcm8419@sbcglobal.net) Attn: Senior Pastor Michael Bellamy or mail to CTCM, PO Box 217, Maywood, IL 60153.***