

Dr. Vernon Swift, State President

## Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.

## Moderators Division Reverend Cleveland McFarland, Jr., President

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## Moderator's Division

Rev. John L. Ward, Vice President Brother Juan McFarland Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church 452 Cramer Avenue Montgomery, Alabama 36104

October 9, 2014

Rev. Montgomery Portis, Secretary

Dear Rev. Juan McFarland and Members,

## <u>Assistants</u>

Rev. Woody Melton, Southwest

Rev. Oliver L. Sealey, Southwest

Rev. Nathaniel Dortch, Southwest

Rev. Robert Lewis, Southeast

Rev. C. A. Hammond, Southeast

Rev. Seaphues Daylee, Northwest

Rev. Green Davidson, III, Northwest

Rev. E. L. Leonard, Northeast

Rev. Sloan Gresham, Northeast This letter is to first express my heartfelt sorrow to you for the unusual pain and suffering that has befallen your congregation. As State President of the Moderators Division of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, I voluntarily offer my assistance to you in reaching a peaceful resolve. I believe that it would be beneficial to the church and all involved if Rev. Juan McFarland would resign his leadership at Shiloh Baptist Church and as moderator of the Alabama Middle District Association at this time. This will spare the Shiloh Baptist Church and the Association from further harm as the healing process moves forward.

Although Rev. Juan McFarland has taken full responsibility for his actions, he has admitted that he knowingly placed the lives of his congregation and community in danger. When a pastor intentionally misleads the church, the body, mind and soul of God's people, trust and respect is lost. He has forfeited his ability to lead, and it is befitting and imperative that he step down as leader. We pray that Rev. Juan McFarland will seek and find redemption, peace, and healing in Christ, our Lord and Savior.

The Convention is offering your church, as well as Rev. Juan McFarland, our assistance with whatever we can do to make this very difficult transition as peaceful and dignified as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cleveland McFarland, Jr. President, Moderators Division

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