



May 21, 2023

Dear Chewelah Church family,

For the past number of weeks, Pastor Wayne Kablanow has been leading a selected group of leaders representing the current diversity of opinion in the Chewelah Church in an attempt to describe a mutually agreeable path forward to elect a new leadership team. When their previous efforts were presented, a number of individuals expressed significant concern with the document.

The group agreed to reconsider the document in light of the concerns expressed and see if they could produce a document that they, and you, could agree to with a two-thirds majority vote. After meeting again on May 12 for some time, they voted to put forward the document that you considered and decided against today.

Since that document and all other attempts at reconciliation and leadership selection have failed, this leaves one option for the Chewelah Church. On June 4, the church will meet in business session at 3 pm at the Chewelah Church to consider the following recommendation from the conference.

"Whereas the Chewelah Church has been unsuccessful in resolving the divisive doctrinal differences in our congregation and have been unable to elect a nominating committee that supports the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church, we vote to accept Upper Columbia Conference counsel to disband our church with the request that the conference make every effort to reorganize the church as soon as possible."

Conference representatives will be present at that time to answer questions as you consider this significant step. The following list may answer some questions in advance to assist you as you consider this step and pray over the future of your church.

1. All church members with membership at the Chewelah Church will be transferred to the conference church and will be held in the conference church provisionally for up to one year while each member decides on what they would like to do with their membership.
2. The Conference will work diligently to find a new pastor to serve the Chewelah and Deer Park District.
3. The new pastor will work with the Conference Executive Committee to establish a new leadership team.
4. The church will re-open with company status as soon as a pastor and new leadership team are selected.
5. The church will be returned to church status as soon as they have demonstrated effective local operations and met the criteria for being a church.
6. While a new pastor and leadership team are being formed, worship services and ministry will cease in the Chewelah Church building. Members will be encouraged to worship in other churches and/or form home fellowship groups during the interim.

We do understand how significant this action is, but the injury being done to attending members, interests, and the church's reputation in the community must come to an end.

On behalf of the Upper Columbia Conference,

David Jamieson
President