

**Sitler Timeline:**

**ACRONYM KEY:** CCEM (CHRIST CHURCH ELDERS MEETING), CCTRCJM (CHRIST CHURCH/TRINITY REFORMED JOINT MEETING), CCHOHM (CHRIST CHURCH HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MEETING)

**COLOR KEY:** PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT CHRIST CHURCH (YELLOW), COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONGREGATION (GREEN), FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN REDACTED ( ).

*IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE BEHAVED THROUGHOUT THIS ORDEAL WITH REMARKABLE CHRISTIAN FORTITUDE AND GRACE.*

**2005**

**CCEM (3/17/05) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported that Steven Sitler was expelled from New St. Andrews last week for a gross violation of the student code of conduct. Doug Wilson was informed of this situation last Thursday. On Friday, Doug Wilson encouraged the families of the victims to report this to the sheriff. Though Steven is not a member of Christ Church, he did attend. The Christ Church session is in agreement with the discipline imposed by the college, is cooperating with Steven's home church in any ecclesiastical discipline, and is in agreement with any civil penalties. In the event of a "not guilty" plea, the session recognizes this as a judicial category, not a personal evasion of responsibility. Doug Wilson has been assured that Steven will accept full civil responsibility for his actions.

**CCEM (3/24/05) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported on the Steven Sitler/ situation. Steven has been suspended from the Lord's Supper at his home church in Colville, and has been asked not to attend church there. Doug will be seeing Steven next Tuesday.

**CCEM (7/7/05) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported that the Steven Sitler situation is coming to an equitable close. Steven has pled guilty. The hearing and the sentencing will be this next week.

**CCHOHM (12/13/05)** Doug Wilson reported on a meeting between the elders and regarding Steven Sitler. Doug explained that Steven is now registered as a sex offender, and is being held in Cottonwood. Steven is repentant, and will likely be returning to Moscow. Doug asked for prayer for this issue, and encouraged the men to guard their hearts, and teach their sons. Doug answered questions from the men regarding this issue.

**SUMMARY:** Steven was given a life sentence, which means that since he is now out of prison, he is on probation for life, and is a registered sex offender for life.

**CCEM (10/13/05) Moderator's notes:** Mike Lawyer reported that Steven Sitler was sentenced to a six-month treatment for child molestation, with the possibility of prison. He is registered as a sex-offender. The are concerned with the possibility of Steven attending Christ Church after this time. Steven's situation will be announced at the heads of household meeting next month, for the protection of the name. Patch Blakey will speak with the about this. Patch Blakey reported on a discussion with Jamin Wight.

**CCTRCJM (11/3/05) Trinity and Christ Church pastors' reports:** Peter Leithart suggested that we invite in to a Christ Church elder meeting to express his concerns over the Steven Sitler situation. He will be invited to the next local presbytery meeting.

**CCTRCJM (12/1/05) Meeting with :** came to the table. In response to questions, explained that he had requested a no-contact order for Steven Sitler, which has not yet happened. They would like this to be done by consent. expressed her desire that Steven not be in church when their children are, for both of their sakes. They have no animosity toward Steven – they look forward to his full repentance and recovery – but they do not yet trust him. The would also like other families to know about Steven, for their children's protection, and so that they would provide no temptation or opportunity for him. Doug Wilson said that, if and when Steven returns to this area, we should assume that Steven would attend Trinity Reformed. Doug Wilson closed the time in prayer. The left the meeting.

**2006**

## CHRIST CHURCH TIMELINE ON THE SITLER CASE

**CCEM (4/2/06) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported on Steven Sitler's situation. He has been transferred to Latah County jail. He will have a hearing in April, to determine how much time he should serve.

**CCEM (6/8/06) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported that Michael Metzler posted on his blog about the Stephen Sitler situation, which was picked up by other blogs and Vision 20/20, who have tried to turn this into a scandal. The elders discussed this in some detail.

**CCHOHM (6/13/06)** Doug Wilson then reported that Michael Metzler recently posted on his blog sensitive information about the Steven Sitler situation. Doug reminded the men about the details of this situation, including [what] was reported to the congregation in November and December. Steven is in Latah County jail. The information from Michael's blog was picked up by Vision 2020. Doug explained how this information was potentially harmful to the families of Steven's victims. Doug answered questions about this situation from the assembly. Steven has expressed his repentance. He was suspended by the OPC church, which released him as a member in poor standing. He has requested membership in Christ Church. Doug invited the assembly to give their input on Steven's potential membership. Steven could not attend worship services for two or three years. Several men expressed their thoughts on Steven's request for membership. Doug explained the tangled situation with the OPC church which released Steven.

**CCEM (6/15/06) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson proposed that we receive Steven Sitler into membership in Christ Church, with clear stipulations, namely, that Steven would not be allowed to attend any church events where children are present without thoroughly letting the families in the church know that he would be there. Motion (DW/EI) to receive Steven Sitler into membership, with the proviso that he not be allowed to be in any setting where children are present. Passed. The elders asked Doug Wilson to draft a one-sentence description of his membership.

**CCEM (8/31/06) Elder reports:** Wes: question from [REDACTED] about Sitler's membership. Doug Wilson reported that Sitler was received into membership; but when he's released from jail, he's not allowed to attend any meetings that have children present. [REDACTED] encouraged us to put Sitler on the prayer rotation

**CCHOHM (9/12/06)** "Regarding Steven Sitler: Douglas Wilson read a statement about Sitler's restrictions by Christ Church. These restrictions are independent from (and more stringent than) any civil government restrictions will be. When he's released from prison, it's likely that the civil magistrate will have restrictions on him—but Christ Church has restrictions that he cannot be where children are present.

**CCEM (9/14/06) Pastor's report:** Concerning Steven Sitler, Doug Wilson requests that we consider restoring him to the Table (he's under suspension right now via the transfer from the OPC). Pastor Bradley didn't have any problem if we were to lift the suspension. Doug Wilson thought it would be helpful to Sitler if the elders were to lift the suspension. Douglas has been meeting with him every two weeks and going through various books with him. Douglas moved (seconded by Matt Gray) that we restore Sitler to the Table. Passed.

## 2007

**CCEM (5/17/07) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported that he has an appointment to meet with Steven Sitler, who has been released from prison. Doug is trying to set up some fellowship for Steven.

**CCEM (5/24/07) Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson reported that he met with Steven Sitler last week. Steven is doing well. He is looking for work after he finishes working for the Pauls next month. Doug asked Mike Lawyer to ask the Greyfriars to volunteer to lead a study and serve communion there on Monday evenings. Doug will be visiting with Steven monthly.

**CCEM (6/28/07) Elder reports:** Jeff Moss reported that he and KC Rumrey have been leading a worship service with Steven Sitler and several of his friends. KC has been leading the service with Jeff. Jeff will be out of town, and asked permission for KC to administer the Lord's Supper. The elders approved. Jeff reported on Steven's situation.

## CHRIST CHURCH TIMELINE ON THE SITLER CASE

**CCEM (11/1/07) Moderator's notes:** Mike Lawyer noted that there have been regular services with Steven Sitler, but the Greyfriars are feeling overloaded with this, their studies and their family load. The elders suggested that they not hold a full service, but cut things back a bit. **Pastor's report:** Doug Wilson argued that we need to think of Steven Sitler as a forgiven sinner, not as a leper for life.

### 2008

**CCHOHM (1/3/08)** Steven Sitler was a young NSA student caught molesting kids. He was confronted and Douglas urged one of the fathers to call the police. Steven was arrested, tried, and spent a year in jail. He's been out on his own since then, and Douglas meets with him roughly once a month. The terms of his probation state that he could not be physically where kids are – including not at church. He was a member of an OPC church, his membership was transferred to Christ Church. He was repentant and confessed to the crimes. Since he could not attend church, KC Rumrey and Jeff Moss have been holding church at Steven's house. The elders also said that Steven could not come to church and that they **would not alter that decision without discussing with the Heads of Households first.** Now the State of Idaho says it is OK for Steven to attend church on Sunday mornings. There are eight trained chaperones in Steven's life: two in Colville (Dave and Roxanne Sitler) and six here (Austin and Michelle Anderson, Jack Bradley, Jayson Heslep, Jody Jacobs, Sandra Richartz.) The stipulation from the State of Idaho is that he can attend Sunday morning church service as long as he is chaperoned by one of the state-trained chaperones. Steven had special permission to attend church for the Anderson baby baptism. Douglas was asked about feedback from the families involved. **No one at the Heads of Household meeting had any objection** if the elders were to concur with the State of Idaho to allow Steven to attend church on Sundays. Douglas reminded the Heads of Household that we have the obligation to minister to Steven **without hurting anyone in the congregation.** Jeff Moss explained some of the details concerning Steven's restrictions.

**CCEM (11/20/08) Moderator's notes:** Mike Lawyer reported that Steven Sitler has a meeting with his probation officer about whether he can attend church normally. Doug Wilson said that this would need to be brought to the congregation. John Grauke suggested that there be an individual who can hold him accountable in church. It was suggested that the Andersons could hold him accountable. KC Rumrey and Jeff Moss were both encouraged by Steven's spiritual life. Doug Wilson may put this on the agenda for the next households meeting, depending upon the decision of the state.

### 2009

**CCEM (1/15/09) Pastor's report:** Douglas reported that the State of Idaho had forbidden Steven Sitler from being around small children, including Sunday worship. **The elders had also instituted that requirement. Recently, the State of Idaho has told Steven that he may now attend Sunday morning worship services, but he must be accompanied by a state-trained chaperone.** This relaxation in stipulations applies to the Sunday morning Lord's Day services only. Douglas moved (John Sawyer seconded) that Steven Sitler be allowed to attend Sunday morning services **as long as he is accompanied** by one of his state-trained chaperones at all times (Austin & Michelle Anderson, Jody Jacobs, Jack Bradley, Sandra Richards) and he only attend the service that his victims do not attend. The motion passed. **Douglas will call both affected families to inform them about this before he talks to Steven.** Douglas is heartened by Steven's progress. There were no objections at the Tuesday Heads of Household meeting to allowing Steven to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

**CCEM (1/22/09) Pastor's report:** Douglas reported that Logos School issued a letter to allow Steven Sitler to be on the Logos property for Sunday morning worship. Douglas talked to both of the affected families before church on Sunday. Steven attended the first service. The elders thank Jeff Moss and KC Rumrey for running a special worship service for Steven Sitler during the previous years.

**CCEM (5/14/09) Moderator's Notes:** **Steven Sitler is unable to attend Christ Church on Sundays since we have gone back to one service.** The elders agree to allow Jeff Moss to serve the Lord's Supper at the Sitler Bible Study.

## 2010

**CCEM (2/11/10)** Moderator's notes: Mike Lawyer reported that he spoke to [REDACTED] (2) about Steven Sitler being in church, now that we have only one service. The [REDACTED] (2) will let us know if they are planning on being in church.

## 2011

**CCTRCJM (4/7/11)** Douglas Wilson: Douglas updated the elders on the upcoming Sitler-Travis wedding. Douglas will mention the wedding at the upcoming Heads of Household meeting. Douglas will send Toby a copy of what he's going to say at HoH.

**CCEM (5/12/11)** Moderator's notes: Csaba updated the elders about Rose Huskey's interfering in Steven Sitler's wedding.

**CCEM (5/26/11)** Meeting minutes: Doug Wilson reported on the Sitler wedding.

## 2015

**CCEM (8/6/15)** Pastoral Issues: Csaba updated the session regarding the results of a recent court appearance for Steven Sitler. The next court appointment is set for 2 pm on September 1. The session was encouraged to pray for Steven and Katie and to be prepared to attend this session in support of Steven.

**CCEM (9/10/15)** Pastor's report: Sitler letter posted on Doug's blog last Sunday got 13,000 views. Very productive for the Gospel here locally.