"[A] draft of what will be said to the congregation on March 25" which Dawn Yoder Harms sent to a survivor of Dan Baumgartner's abuse on Mar. 19, 2018.

As individuals and as a church, we do not have the luxury of choosing what tests us. We believe that churches seeking to minister in the name of Christ must maintain the congregation as a safe and healing community. We believe that Christian churches are called to provide for the protection of children and other vulnerable groups and to care for those who are survivors of abuse or traumatic experiences. We know Christian churches also minister to those who have committed sexual offenses. While society sees openness and protection as competing values, churches are called to hold openness and protection in dynamic and creative tension.

This morning we inform you of allegations of sexual abuse against one of our members, Dan Baumgartner.

There are understandably many things you will want to know that we are not able to share in order to protect confidentiality for all involved.

However, we do want you to know these things:

These are allegations, not legal convictions. However, these allegations are credible. They are corroborated, and they come from multiple victims. These allegations are of concern to us because we seek the ongoing safety of our children and vulnerable adults in this congregation.

None of the alleged abuses happened in our church, and we have no reason to believe that anyone in our congregation has been a victim of Dan's abuse.

However, what we have learned leads us to believe that we must take steps to ensure the safety of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Here is what is being done:

a) We are informing you.
b) We are implementing a limited access agreement with Dan. This agreement provides the guidelines under which Dan may, if he signs the agreement, participate in this congregation.
c) We are asking that if anyone in this congregation has been a victim of Dan's abuse, they contact XXXX.

We do not enter into this process lightly. We assure you that the allegations brought to us have been processed carefully and thoughtfully.

This morning we bring you this information in accordance with counsel received from Western District Conference, the members of MC USA's Sexual Abuse Task Force, Dove's Nest, a faith-based child safety network, as well as BCMC's Guidelines for the Safety of Children and Youth. We are acting within the ethical guidelines of our denomination and in the belief that our congregation values justice and trusts victims' voices.