

From D.L. Shouse to Jonathan B. Fuller

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Kansas City Mo[.]

October 1863

Rev J.B. Fuller

Louisiana Mo.

Dear Brother[.]

Some two months since our church in this place unanimously extended to you a call to the pastorate of our body coupled with an invitation to visit us and hold a meeting at such time as might suit your convenience at an early day[.] Your answer was received promising us a visit at which time a further settlement among us might be discussed yet shortly afterwards news of our troubles in Jackson County having reached you[.] you suggested that perhaps it was not a good time to come[.] in which opinion our members were agreed, though no church meeting was called to answer your letter.

Since the date of the last letter you had from us we have lost quite a large number of our members by military orders as well as by voluntary removal until now we are left with a small

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band and even among them many who in these stringent times are unable to do anything towards the support of a pastor, from having been deprived of business or having their resources so much diminished as to feel anxiety about future support of themselves. These matters [*text stricken through*] of which we have so plainly spoken as well as justice to you compel us to say to you that we do not think at the present time that we could raise in our midst a sufficient sum as salary to induce you to come among us with a view to permanent settlement, yet we hope for better times another year and when we have a return of prosperity all of our members would most heartily unite in answering the call. Yet in the meantime your services might be sought by others more favorably situated and knowing that you delight to labor anywhere in the Master's vineyard where good can be done we would wish you to feel free about it as regards us.

In writing thus to you we do not wish you to understand that we have entirely given it up but only postponed it until a "more convenient season."

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As regards your promise to come over to see us we still wish you to [do] so and when we think it likely to be quiet permanently in our town we hope to see you face to face[.] Perhaps in a month or two.

Our dear brother we trust that in your petitions to the Throne of Grace you will remember the little flock at Kansas City and pray that we may be strengthened in faith as well as in numbers of such as shall be saved.

P.S. We have been writing to the Baptist Home Mission Society in N.Y.[.] asking them to assist us for a while. They say they do not give anything to Churches but to Ministers directly but as you have not yet accepted the call of the Kansas City Church consequently they could give nothing until you had at least agreed to do.

Please inform yourself as far as possible about this and let us know. We are confident that when quiet is restored here we will be able to support a minister and we think it is a ve[r]y important [point?]

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and one which our denomination ought to occupy.

Please let us hear from you & if you can suggest anything to our advantage do so by all means.

Approved by the chu[r]ch at a called meeting Sunday October 4th 1863

D.L. Shouse

Committee