

**From:** Pete Menjares, Interim President <president@spu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Update on legal matter



**Office of the President**

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For more than a year, Seattle Pacific University has been engaged in a lawsuit regarding its employment policies. Because of the high visibility this case has received, I want to let you know that Jéaux Rinedahl and Seattle Pacific have agreed to settle the lawsuit without going to trial.

The University recognizes that the lawsuit involved issues of faith upon which Christians — including in the University community — disagree, but the University also believes that Christian institutions should be able to work out these issues within their own communities, consistent with the free exercise of religion provided by the U.S. Constitution.

We continue to engage in discussions about how best to live out our identity as a Christian university, including with respect to employment policies. I am grateful for the conversations that have been facilitated over the past several months through the “SPU in One Room” events. I am also especially appreciative of all the work that has been done by the LGBTQIA+ Work Group these past several months. The importance and complexity of these issues will continue to inform conversations as we strive to respect and care for all members of our community.

Pete



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