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Wade Avery Swayne
& others

Mar. 2, 1864

Cits

File

Memphis,
Mar 2. 1864

Genl R. P. Buckland,

Dear Sir,

We the un-
designed, Officers & members of the
the first Presbyterian Church & con-
gregation of this city, do respectfully
and earnestly request of you
the exercise of your power in
relieving our Pastor, Rev J. C. Stee-
man D.D. of the embarrassment
under which he has for some
months past laboured, & in re-
storing him to the full exercise
of his ministerial duties among
us. We ask this as a matter of
justice and of mercy, no
charge of improper conduct or

of violations of law or order, has ever so far as we know, been made against him. As a citizen he has conducted himself with propriety and prudence; has never meddled with the political agitations of the day; and has confined himself to the simple preaching of the doctrines of the Cross. President Lincoln, in a recent letter in reference to the case of Rev Dr. Chas Phelps of St Louis, has expressed himself very plainly and clearly as not wishing to intending to interfere with Preachers and Churches, and as giving no authority to any one else to do so, but leaving all churches to conduct their own affairs in their own way, and to choose their own preachers for spiritual teachers & guides. And in these days of civil commotion

sore trial, especially, we set a high value upon the privileges and ordinances of the Sanctuary, and desire, above all things, to be secured in their quiet & uninterrupted enjoyment: Earnestly hoping that you may see your way clear to grant our request and speedily restore to us what we fully believe will be for the interests of the Community & our own individual interests and comfort, we remain

Most sincerely & obediently
Yours &c.
J. T. Swayne
Cyrus Johnson,
James Elder,
G. L. Denison,
Charles Miller
A. J. White
T. T. Leath

Henry Wade
J. B. Kirtland
A. Blake
P. W. Avery
Amos. Woodruff