8597
Wade Avery, Swayne & others
Mar. 2, 1864
Cts
File
Memphis,
Mar. 7, 1864

Genl. P. T. Buckland,
Dear Sir,

The undersigned, officers and members of the First Presbyterian Church of
this city, do respectfully and earnestly request of you the exercise of your power in
releasing our pastor, Rev. J. B. Smith, of the embarrassment under which he has for some
months past labored, in allowing him to the full exercise of his ministerial duties among
us. We ask this as a matter of justice and of mercy, and to avoid improper conduct.
of violation of law or order, has ever 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. Wheeler of St. Louis, has expressed himself very plainly and clearly, as not wishing to intend to interfere with Brethren 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 and guides. And in these days of civil commotion...
The trial, especially, we set a
high value upon the privilege
and ordinances of the Sanctuary
and desire, above all things,
to be secured in their quiet and
interrupted 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
interest of the Community, our
individual interest, and
comfort, we remain

Most sincerely, Obdeently,

E. J. Johnson,
James Elder,
Charles Miller

J. T. Shaughn

O. W. Army

Amos, W. Eden

Henry Blake

W. D. Killand

O. W. Army

Amos, W. Eden