

April 22, 2018

The elders of Highlands Church have directed Les Hughey to begin a leave of absence while the matter recently brought to their attention is investigated. Because the allegations are from more than 40 years ago, it will take some time to get a clear picture. We are concerned about the well-being of all people affected by these events.

The following statement was previously released by Pastor Hughey:

*Over 40 years ago, as a church intern in California, I sinned and harmed the most important relationships in my life. I was unfaithful to my God, my wife, the ministry, and was rightly removed from that Church. I engaged in consensual relationships with fellow college-age staff.*

*With God's help, my wife's forgiveness, and discipline and counseling from Church authority, I sincerely repented and we put our lives back in order.*

*Unfortunately, it's impossible to undo what happened, so I instead accept and live with the consequences, even now, so many years later. My family and the authority over me at my Church are aware of this history. I thank God for His forgiveness and grace.*

In addition, Pastor Hughey added this as he addressed the congregation this morning:

*This matter was dealt with as church leadership thought best back then. But we all failed to understand the deep wound that would come to everyone involved. I am profoundly sorry for all of the different people that I hurt.*

During Pastor Hughey's leave of absence, Highlands Church intends to:

- Do its due diligence in gathering information
- Apply biblical standards and principles
- Show compassion to all involved

Doug Milligan  
Chairman, Highlands Church Elders