

Highlands Church Elders Accept Resignation of Senior Pastor Les Hughey

Church hires MinistrySafe to conduct third-party investigation of sexual misconduct allegations

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., April 25, 2018 – Following allegations of sexual misconduct, the Elders of Highlands Church in Scottsdale, Arizona, have accepted the resignation of Senior Pastor Les Hughey, effective immediately.

The resignation follows sexual misconduct occurring over four decades ago. The Church released a [statement](#) made by Hughey to the church body. Before his disclosure, the Elders were unaware of any past incidents or allegations.

The Elders placed Hughey on an indefinite leave of absence in order to investigate claims published in the media on April 21st. Following this, the Elders became aware, the evening of April 22, of additional sexual accusations of misconduct occurring more than two decades ago before the founding of Highlands Church.

“Pastor Hughey’s resignation does not end the responsibility of Highlands Church,” said Bob Wade, who is currently serving as interim senior pastor. “We are committed to providing counseling and spiritual care. Further, we recognize the critical importance of treating any allegation of abuse or misconduct seriously and its victims with compassion.”

Highlands Church will continue with a third-party investigation led by [Kimberlee D. Norris, founder of MinistrySafe](#), a leading organization dedicated to child sexual abuse prevention, education for ministries and advocacy for victims. Norris is an experienced attorney that regularly represents victims of abuse in court as a victims advocate.

Through the investigation process, Norris will determine any areas of concern, provide guidance should evidence of abuse taking place or having taken place at Highlands Church be revealed, and ensure that Highlands Church is exercising best practices to ensure the safety of everyone who attends.

“As we move forward, Highlands Church leadership is committed to walking with integrity, and protecting our congregation, especially children and youth,” said Wade.

For additional information, visit HighlandsChurch.org.

- 30 -

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