

To members of the local churches in our church network:

We, the Network Leadership Team and Lead Pastors, are aware of the criticisms and accusations being made on various online platforms against us, other leaders in our group of churches and our church network as a whole. We are deeply grieved and saddened by the approach that our accusers have taken in their attempt to publicly harm the reputation of individual leaders, churches and our church network. Our goal of this letter is to communicate with our members as we face this season and seek to continue to move forward together.

1. We will not reply in detail to the many issues and accusations that have been raised against us. The Bible lays out specific guidelines for handling conflict with other Christians and church leaders in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19. By using an anonymous, public forum, our accusers are handling their grievances in a way that is unbiblical, unproductive and harmful to Jesus' church.
2. We strive to be humble and loving leaders who "shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:2-3). We deny the allegations that have been leveled against us of spiritual abuse and of attempting to control people for our own power and gain. We do not lead perfectly and we ask for grace from God's people where we have fallen short. We welcome honest, grace-filled conversations with those who have misunderstood our words, actions and intentions in leadership and are truly seeking help and reconciliation.
3. As soon as we became aware of the accusations, we sought outside counsel with someone who is familiar with the culture and structure of our group of churches. We have been advised to be kind and loving to all, to pray for those who are against us, and to stay focused on the mission to which Jesus has called us.
4. We will bless any that would like to leave our churches and feel called to another church family. They will always be our brothers and sisters in Christ and we are thankful for the sacrifices that they have made for Jesus' mission in our local churches. We want them to follow Jesus in whatever way that they feel he is leading and find a church family where they can flourish as disciples and help fulfill the Great Commission.
5. The Network Leadership Team is thankful for Steve Morgan's strong yet humble leadership, depth of love for all and Christ-honoring character from the beginning of this network of churches. We believe that he is called, gifted and qualified to continue to lead this network and we reaffirm our commitment to serve alongside him in this work.

6. We are aware of the publishing of a distorted version of Steve Morgan's sin from before he was a follower of Jesus over 30 years ago. While we do not condone the sin, we affirm that Steve dealt with it properly before he was a Christian. After becoming a Christian, Steve also confessed all of his past sin to several fellow overseers and friends. Sadly, a former overseer has taken his confession and weaponized it in an attempt to discredit and shame him. We believe all of Steve's sin has been forgiven and forgotten by God (Isaiah 38:17 & 43:25, Micah 7:19). Furthermore, he has continued to walk in character, integrity and purity since he became a follower of Jesus and a leader in the church. Steve has been faithfully married for 27 years to his wife Shu-hui and they have raised four healthy children together who are all actively following Jesus. Sadly, we are aware of others in the anonymous group behind the accusations that are now exposing the previous sins of other leaders in our network as well. We believe it is cruel, evil and the antithesis of the gospel message to dig up and disclose a person's sin that has already been dealt with in a biblical manner. This is a great offense against the cross of Jesus Christ.

7. While many Christians, churches and church leaders around the globe are facing a season of persecution, we trust that the Lord is allowing this to ultimately refine and purify us, our churches and our faith for what he has planned for our future. We will continue to seek and trust him for the strength, guidance, provision and protection that we need to follow him in this life and fulfill his purposes in this world.