


Request for Comment from Steve Morgan

To: info@joshua-church.com, johnanthony@joshua-church.com, stevendean@
From: hello@leavingthenetwork.org
Sent: August 13, 2023 at 7:37 PM CST
Subject: Request for Comment from Steve Morgan

Steve Morgan,

Leaving The Network will be publishing an upcoming article contrasting your 2020 small group training in which you recount how your story shapes The Network with evidence we have collected through numerous contemporary newspaper articles and first person interviews.

You claimed to have come from a “typical, American pagan family” and insinuated that you were “unchurched,” with no experience in congregations or church culture before you stepped into Ziegler Vineyard in 1993. Our investigations have found numerous apparent falsehoods in your story.

We will summarize our findings below and include questions for you in order to provide you with an opportunity to comment.

Please send your response no later than 8am Central Time on Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

Primary Findings:

- Your extended family included senior leaders of RLDS, including Regional Stake President & High Priest Sebe Morgan, High Priest Billie Morgan, and Pastor & Director of Park of the Pines James Morgan. You participated (played guitar and sang) at your sister’s wedding which your uncle James officiated in the Boyne City RLDS Church. You also attended Graceland College, a college sponsored by RLDS which was 750 miles away from your home town of Boyne City, Michigan.
- You attended Graceland College from 1982 until 1986. Other students saw you and Greg Darling as pious religious leaders on campus. Additionally, you and Greg were members of The Journeymen, a worship and discipleship group which led worship services and Sunday morning church services.
- You were ordained into the priesthood of Melchisedec (identified as a future leader) in 1984 by High Priest John Wolf of Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Calling into the Priesthood within RLDS is not automatic, but often involves elders receiving dreams, visions, or other spiritual impressions for potential future leaders.
- You were Camp Pastor in 1985 for the youth summer camp at Park of the Pines in Boyne City, Michigan. You later told Sándor Paull that you had a sexual relationship with a teenage boy while “working at a summer camp.” You were not arrested for an alleged sexual assault against someone at this summer camp.
- You were promoted to Presiding Elder in 1985 at the Allendale, Missouri RLDS congregation. You preached the 1985 Easter sermon titled, “New Life in Jesus Christ”
- In 1987, after taking the job as a Youth Pastor in Olathe, Kansas, you were fired by one of the elders after the teenager you allegedly sexually assaulted came forward as your victim. A warrant was issued for your arrest. The incident later became public among members of the RLDS congregation, and many of them continued to support you even after you admitted that you had sexually assaulted the boy.
- You returned to Michigan after being fired from your position as Youth Pastor. While living there, you became involved with the Leaders 2000 group at an RLDS property called Bluewater.
- You entered the Vineyard denomination in 1993, and had become a church planter (and therefore lead pastor) by 1995.

Questions:

1. **Do you dispute any of the findings above?**
2. **Why did you not disclose in your 2020 small group leader training (or your 2011 ‘My Story and How We Do Church’ treatise) that you were identified as a future leader by a High Priest in RLDS and ordained into the Priesthood?**
3. **Why did you not disclose your history as a religious leader in RLDS, including your time as a member of the Journeymen alongside Greg Darling, Presiding Elder of the RLDS congregation in Allendale, Missouri, Camp Pastor at Park of the Pines in Michigan, or Youth Pastor at Olathe, Kansas?**
4. **Why was Sándor Paull under the impression that you had sexual contact with a teenage boy “while working at a summer camp” when the alleged sexual assault for which you were arrested took place in Olathe, Kansas while you were a Youth Pastor?**
5. **What other information can you provide about your involvement with the Leaders 2000 group at Bluewater?**
6. **How do you respond to criticisms that someone with your ecclesiastical resume cannot credibly describe their life before 1992 as “unchurched”?**
