

Sisters and Brothers at South Grove...

Sisters and Brothers,

At the South Grove team meeting on July 10, 2022, Bobby relayed to you information regarding Steve Morgan's history of criminal sexual assault against a minor. During that talk, Bobby mentioned that we would continue to monitor the situation as it continues, and share information and adjust decisions as more information came to light. We made those commitments again in August 2022 church meetings – to monitor, share, and adjust decisions.

Additional information has come to light – **information that Bobby had since September 2020**, that he did not share with the rest of the overseers as we evaluated the situation in July, August, and September 2022, and that I learned of in February 2023 from a source other than Bobby. In a 45 minute phone call that I had with Bobby on March 20, 2023, he confirmed the truth of the information and that **he has known since September 2020**. While I'm no longer in a position to make any decisions for South Grove, I still made a commitment to you that I am constrained to honor.

I have patiently afforded the opportunity (thirteen weeks, and three team meetings) for Bobby to share the information with you himself. I understand that he shared this with a limited selection of chosen people, though I do not know who among you is chosen to know or not know. I have encouraged him to share it at team meeting (the same way as his July 2022 disclosure) and expressed my disappointment that he has not. I asked Bobby, and he told me that he does not intend to tell the whole church about this. I committed to you to monitor, share, and re-evaluate as new information comes out. This is not an effort to stir up division, but rather an effort to keep my commitment to you and to ensure that you are equipped with the truth. I have made an effort to have Bobby share it with you. He acknowledged to me that he also made the commitment, but has decided against providing all of you with the information.

Bobby and the Network Leadership have specifically told us that "there has been nothing else" with respect to Steve Morgan, but there **has** been something else.

In January or February 2023, the audio became available from when Lead Pastor and member of the Network Leadership Team Sándor Paull discussed this with Christland Church's team meeting in July 2022. This audio was made into a transcript as well. In his talk, Sándor made vague reference to Steve Morgan's "incident" in 2007 and provided slightly more detail.

A more thorough description of that vague reference was shared by someone else in February 2023.

****If you want to avoid the details, stop here****



The conduct involves sexual impropriety by Steve Morgan **in 2007 while he was lead pastor of Blue Sky Church in Seattle**. In 2007, Steve Morgan (at the age of 40+) went out to the busiest wilderness trail in the state of Washington, took off all his clothes, skinny dipped in the lake, then masturbated in the woods.

If he had been caught, **he could have been charged with a crime and the crime with which he could have been charged may have required him to register on Washington's sex offender registry**.

While it was less severe than the criminal sexual assault of a minor in the 1980s, Steve Morgan felt (rightly) that his conduct in 2007 was worth confessing to all of the lead pastors in September 2020 at the same time that he confessed his episode of criminal sexual assault of a minor to all of the lead pastors in September 2020. **It is conduct that I firmly believe would have resulted in the removal of any small group leader, let alone a pastor**. There is no indication that it resulted in any discipline for Steve Morgan. That discipline would have been carried out by the board of overseers at Blue Sky Church, but the Vice President of that Board was not told about the incident (until at least 13 years later), and thus we must conclude that no discipline was undertaken since a key member of the board was uninformed.

In July 2022, had I known what Bobby knew, my analysis and conclusions about Steve's qualification would have been different. I relied heavily on the assurances that "there has been nothing else," assurances offered by Bobby, Steve Morgan, and the Network Leadership Team. **Those assurances were not true**. I relied heavily on the assurance from the Network Leadership Team and all of the lead pastors that Steve "has continued to walk in character, integrity and purity since he became a follower of Jesus and a leader in the church." Steve Morgan's episode at Snow Lake in 2007 is not consistent with the claim that he has walked in character, integrity, and purity since he became a follower of Jesus. **The pastors who gave us those assurances were not honest with us**.

I feel strongly about telling the truth, and not just to a select few, but to everyone to whom incomplete or misleading information was given in July 2022.

Scripture places a high premium on truth. In both the Old and New Testaments, God's people are enjoined to speak the truth (Psa. 15:2; Prov. 12:17; Zech. 8:16; Eph. 4:15, 25). The ninth commandment (Exod. 20:16) is expressly concerned with truthfulness, primarily in the context of a law-court (Deut. 19:15–21) but by extension in all spheres of life. As the rest of Scripture makes clear, truth-telling is a moral duty and honesty is a moral virtue. The pursuit of justice depends crucially on truthfulness, and thus the righteous are those who "love truth" (Zech. 8:16–19; cf. Amos 5:10). A sincere concern for truth should permeate not only our speech but our very thoughts (Phil. 4:8).

What you do with this information is up to you, but I feel constrained to honor my commitment to you that I would continue to monitor the situation and supply additional relevant information that surfaced.

– Jason

June 27, 2023 jasonr  [Uncategorized](#)
