

## Statement from Former Mars Hill Church Elders:

We are saddened to learn that Mark Driscoll has continued in a pattern of sinful actions towards staff members and congregants as he pastors The Trinity Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. These sinful leadership behaviors appear similar to what he exhibited in his leadership role at Mars Hill Church in Seattle. We are troubled that he continues to be unrepentant despite the fact that these sins have been previously investigated<sup>1</sup>, verified, and brought to his attention by his fellow Elders, prior to his abrupt resignation. Accordingly, we believe that Mark is presently unfit for serving the church in the office of pastor. Knowing that we have no formal authority in this current matter, we hope that Mark will voluntarily resign his position immediately. We also hope that those who have influence over Mark would encourage him to do so.

We sympathize with those who have been wounded by Mark and pray for their healing. We have engaged and heard from many former Mars Hill Church staff and members who were hurt by domineering leadership, harsh speech, and angry outbursts and are sobered by the devastation victims have suffered. We realize that Mark left deep pain in the lives of many by being unwilling to seek restoration and reconciliation with those he has sinned against. We grieve the harm that has come to The Trinity Church as well as the damage to the reputation of Jesus among unbelievers through Mark's words and actions.

We plead with Mark to participate in and submit to Christian conciliation<sup>2</sup>, in the important work of pursuing repentance, reconciliation, and restoration with those he has harmed and sinned against. We are disappointed in the leaders who affirmed Mark's role in planting The Trinity Church. They provided a ministry endorsement from a distance, rather than investigating carefully the charges against him and leading him in a process of repentance and reconciliation. This "translocal" advisory structure has allowed Mark to avoid the accountability he needs.

We hope and pray, by the grace of God, that Mark will submit himself to a prolonged season under the Godly leadership and direction of a local church body and Elder team. Many of us stand willing and ready to pursue reconciliation with Mark and assist others who also would like to do the same. Our hope is that after being restored in the future, Mark will find an appropriate place to serve and be served in the Body of Christ. However, we don't believe that it would be prudent or healthy for him to be in a position of spiritual authority in a church or ministry setting for the foreseeable future.

In faith, hope, and love through Jesus,

### Former Mars Hill Church Elders

Jerry Austin	Kyle Firstenberg	Will Little	Miles Rohde	Sutton Turner
Joel Brown	Carlos Garcia	Dick A McKinley	Paul Rohrbaugh	Matt Wallace
Dave Bruskas	Tim Gaydos	Ryan Mount	James Rose	Ryan Welsh
Ed Choi	Aaron Gray	Steven Mulkey	Gary Shavey	Ryan Williams
Josh Clayton	Bubba Jennings	Bob Paulsen	Tim Smith	Steve Zietlow
Gabe Davis	Matt Johnson	Tim Patton	Joe Stengele	
Rich Downen	Brian Jonkman	Andy Phipps	Brian Stoddard	
Cliff Ellis	Dave Kraft	Phil Poirier	Jim Tomisser	
David Fairchild	Ryan Kearns	Adam Ramsey	Steve Tompkins	

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<sup>1</sup> The Board of Elders of Mars Hill Church investigated the formal charges against Mark Driscoll and issued the attached findings on Monday, October 13, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Christian conciliation is a Biblically based method of peacemaking in order to resolve conflict and restore relationships.

***(The below statement was written by members of the Board of Elders who investigated the formal charges of Mark Driscoll in August and September of 2014. This statement was submitted to the Board of Overseers of Mars Hill Church on Monday, October 13, 2014. This statement was followed by an in person meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2014 in downtown Seattle, Washington.)***

### **Members of Mars Hill Church,**

This report is given to you from the Board of Elders with permission from the Board of Overseers.\* These two boards are working together for the good of Mars Hill Church.

Below are the findings and recommendations from the Board of Elders and our investigation into the charges against Pastor Mark Driscoll. Though Mark has resigned from his role of pastor and elder we believe these findings should be explained to the people Jesus has entrusted to us. In this matter we stand before God, Christ Jesus and the elect angels (1 Timothy 5:21) to give an account.

### **Summary of BoE Findings**

Proverbs 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

1 Timothy 5:19-20 says, "Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear."

We conducted an examination of the charges against Mark by interviewing more than 40 eyewitnesses and Mark himself. The charges below we find to be true are supported by testimony of those currently close to Mark, and was not limited to the former staff and elders who signed the formal charges. Based on eyewitness testimony and our own direct experiences we find the following allegations of sin in Mark to be true:

- Quick-tempered, including harsh speech
- Arrogant
- Domineering in his leadership of the elders and staff

While no members of the Board of Elders expect Mark Driscoll to be perfect, the scriptures hold those who serve in the office of elder to a high standard of character and godliness. Throughout the history of Mars Hill Church, Mark has demonstrated these patterns of sin. Former elders have shared their concerns on this with Mark privately, and friends and advisors outside the church have shared this feedback with him as well. On many occasions Mark has acknowledged these sins himself. Sadly we see Mark continuing in these patterns to the present day.

It is with a heavy heart that we believe the church should follow 1 Timothy 5:20 which says that an elder persisting in sin should be rebuked before the body. It is our prayer that through the church following scripture, and the work of the Holy Spirit, Mark can more clearly see his sin, repent and be reconciled with those whom he has sinned against.

### **Recommendations**

It was our recommendation to the Board of Overseers that Mark be rebuked for his sin and a restoration process be developed to shepherd Mark towards godliness. This process would have involved:

- Removal from eldership and all church leadership for reflection, repentance, and healing
- Repentance and reconciliation with those who have been sinned against
- A team of pastors and counselors inside and outside of Mars Hill that would care for Mark throughout the process

Loving restoration of Mark to ministry and leadership when the above pastors unanimously agree that Mark is in a place of repentance and godliness

All of the members of this board love Mark Driscoll deeply. We hoped to see him restored and are grieved that Mark chose to leave before we were able to walk alongside him through this process.

### **Repentance as Leaders**

As we walked through this investigation the Holy Spirit impressed upon us that we too have been sinful and that He is calling us to confession and repentance of our own sins. Before God we confess: we are guilty of arrogance, being quick-tempered, we have led in a domineering manner.

It is our hope to lovingly lead the church in a season of reflection, confession, and repentance. May the love of Jesus Christ we show towards one another and his redemption of our brokenness be what Mars Hill Church is known for in the future. Glory be to Jesus Christ!

### **Board of Elders**

Ed Choi	Alex Ghioni	Aaron Gray	AJ Hamilton
Bubba Jennings	Miles Rohde	Tim Smith	