

# Firefly

## Executive Summary

Prepared by

**FIREFLY – Independent Sexual Abuse Investigations<sup>1</sup>**

**Investigation of Mike Bickle<sup>2</sup> and the  
International House of Prayer Kansas City<sup>3</sup>**

**February 3, 2025**

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**Revised: March 3, 2025**

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<sup>1</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym FIREFLY

<sup>2</sup> Hereafter referred to as BICKLE

<sup>3</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym IHOPKC

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## INTRODUCTION

The following report summarizes the information gathered throughout this investigation, including interviews and documentation. It is based on multiple interviews with witnesses, alleged offenders, victims/survivors and other individuals with direct knowledge of the events that occurred.

FIREFLY has received two hundred twenty-four (224) intakes through various channels, including online survey responses, emails, and phone calls. Only three submissions were made anonymously through the survey.

We have been able to identify and interview thirty-two (32) Interviewed Survivors<sup>4</sup> (IS) who were sexually abused or experienced sexually abusive misconduct during their time at IHOPKC.

Several additional victims/survivors provided us with credible testimonies and evidence of abuse. We did not include them in the report because they prefer to remain anonymous, but their testimonies clearly indicate that instances of abuse at IHOPKC were more numerous than are reported in this document.

The credibility of this report is founded on the collective and corroborating testimony of the experiences of the victims and witnesses. It is not reliant on any single experience or victim, but rather on the consistent and overlapping accounts that paint a comprehensive picture of the systemic issues and misconduct within IHOPKC. This approach ensures that no single testimony is isolated, but instead, is part of a larger narrative that illustrates the extent and severity of the issues. This collective testimony strengthens the report's validity and highlights the urgent need for IHOPKC to address the issues identified by FIREFLY and implement changes to create a safer and more supportive environment.

By considering the combined voices of multiple individuals, the report highlights patterns of abuse, cover-ups, and failures within the leadership. The corroborated accounts provide a

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<sup>4</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym "IS" for Interviewed Survivor

powerful foundation for advocating for accountability, transparency, and meaningful reforms within IHOPKC.

During the investigation, we learned of numerous other potential victims who have been sexually harassed or experienced sexually abusive misconduct by BICKLE and/or other staff on campus. Many of these accounts are based on hearsay, as we have not directly heard from the victims themselves; therefore, we will not disclose these stories.

Out of respect and privacy for the women and men interviewed, we will not use their names or initials in this report unless permission was previously obtained.

Each person was provided the opportunity to be interviewed anonymously, agreeing that their names and specific stories would not be released due to concerns for their safety unless permission was granted. This ensures that their personal information remains confidential, and their identities are protected. By maintaining anonymity, we aim to create a safe and trusting environment where participants can share their stories and experiences freely, without fear of repercussions. This approach upholds ethical standards and allows for more honest and open communication. This respectful handling of sensitive information will lead to a more authentic and impactful report.

Throughout this report, any victims who chose to remain anonymous will be referred to as "Interviewed Survivors" (IS). Similarly, all witnesses will be designated as "Interviewed Witnesses" (IW)<sup>5</sup>. This approach ensures the privacy and protection of individuals involved while maintaining clear identification for reference purposes.

Staff members implicated in sexual abuse or misconduct during the investigation will be designated as, "Accused Staff Member"<sup>6</sup> (ASM). This designation aims to clearly identify individuals under scrutiny and ensure that appropriate measures are taken to address the allegations. By implementing this designation, we hope to maintain transparency and accountability throughout the investigation process.

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<sup>5</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym "IW" for Interviewed Witness

<sup>6</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym "ASM" for Accused Staff Member

During the investigation, potential victims were not solicited from lists provided by groups, organizations, or individuals. Every Interviewed Survivor (IS) and Interviewed Witness (IW) included in the report independently and voluntarily came forward to share their story. All victims listed in the report were interviewed by phone, via Zoom, or in person. In-person interviews of ISs and IWs were conducted during five trips to the Kansas City, Colorado Springs, and Minneapolis areas. Additionally, FIREFLY supplemented these in-person interviews with phone and Zoom interviews. This methodology emphasizes the genuine and self-initiated nature of their disclosures, free from external solicitation or influence.

Victims often choose not to disclose their experiences for various reasons, and we do not want to re-traumatize anyone unwilling to share their story. Factors found to influence delayed disclosure decisions can include guilt, shame, and self-blame following the abuse.<sup>7</sup>

The silence of these victims stresses the gravity of the situation and highlights the need for a supportive and transparent environment where victims can feel safe to speak out. The courage of those who have come forward is commendable, but it also brings to light the stories of countless others who may still be suffering in silence.

Throughout the investigation, no restrictions were placed on FIREFLY, ensuring complete autonomy. Moreover, no group or individual has attempted to sway or influence the course of the investigation. Additionally, the names of victims and witnesses have remained confidential and have not been shared with anyone during the investigation. This steadfast commitment to impartiality and privacy underscores the integrity of our investigative process.

Throughout the investigation, FIREFLY meticulously reviewed and analyzed over 6,000 documents directly related to this case. These documents were obtained from numerous groups and organizations, both public and private, and individuals with direct knowledge of BICKLE and IHOPKC. The documents obtained from these groups and individuals provided a

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<sup>7</sup> McGill L, McElvaney R. Adult and Adolescent Disclosures of Child Sexual Abuse: A Comparative Analysis. *J Interpers Violence*. 2023 Jan; 38(1-2):NP1163-NP1186. doi: 10.1177/08862605221088278. Epub 2022 Apr 28. PMID: 35481775; PMCID: PMC9723505.

comprehensive overview of the interactions, policies, and practices involving BICKLE and IHOPKC, shedding light on various aspects of the case.

This report delves into the complex and deeply troubling issue of sexual abuse within the clergy, examining patterns of behavior, institutional responses, and the profound impact on survivors. Through interviews with two hundred ten (210) individuals and intakes from 14 others, this report seeks to uncover the underlying dynamics that have allowed abuse to persist and often go unaddressed. FIREFLY will take a more comprehensive view of sexual abuse and sexually abusive misconduct to include not only abuse within the historically narrow understanding of those terms (sexual assault and battery without consent) but also to include physical and non-physical conduct that a person suffers, submits to, participates in, or performs due to the deception, manipulation, coercion, grooming (children and adults) and/or intimidation by another.

## **SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

The Investigator Services Agreement between FIREFLY and Tikkun International,<sup>8</sup> dated September 5, 2024, specifies the scope of the investigation:

“FIREFLY shall conduct an independent investigation into allegations of sexually abusive misconduct by Mike BICKLE in his association with the International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO (hereinafter referred to as IHOPKC) and others in leadership at IHOPKC during that time—and whether there were systemic patterns of behavior within the IHOPKC leadership that contributed to any abuse (if the abuse is confirmed).

FIREFLY shall also investigate the cover-up of any allegation of sexual abuse/misconduct connected with IHOPKC that was reported to IHOPKC leadership. This shall include how IHOPKC leadership responded to such allegations brought to them and how incorrect responses negatively affected victims.”

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<sup>8</sup> See attached Investigator Services Agreement signed by Tikkun International and FIREFLY on September 5, 2024

In compliance with the scope of this investigation, FIREFLY created a confidential online survey that was accessible on the FIREFLY website.<sup>9</sup> It was made available to the broader IHOPKC community (former and active) to assist the investigative team in collecting relevant information within the scope of this investigation. The purpose of the survey, the scope of the investigation, and definitions of abuse and misconduct were articulated at the beginning of the survey.

Through this investigation, FIREFLY conducted two hundred ten (210) initial witness interviews and twenty-eight (28) reinterviews.

## **INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS**

IHOPKC has seen thousands come through its doors seeking a sanctuary of corporate worship and intercession. The Global Prayer Room is a department of IHOPKC that is staffed by prayer leaders, singers, musicians, and worship leaders who serve as missionaries. IHOPKC has other staff who serve in other departments. Many lives have been touched, and much good has come from the organization. The prayer room is designed to reflect the Tabernacle of David (1 Chr. 9:33; 22–24), describing it as a place where we never cease worshipping the Lord and interceding for our world.<sup>10</sup>

IHOPKC is renowned for its continuous prayer and worship, creating a unique spiritual environment for its attendees. A representative of FIREFLY visited the House of Prayer and observed the worship and praise activities firsthand to gain deeper insights into their spiritual practices and community engagement. Given recent concerns, it is crucial to understand the proactive measures the board is taking to ensure the safety and well-being of church members. Despite multiple attempts to contact the current board of directors for comments on the proactive measures implemented within IHOPKC, we have received no responses.

The lack of response from the board members further exacerbates the issue, raising concerns about the efficacy and sincerity of the proactive measures purportedly in place. IW #45 reported that, in a meeting, IHOPKC Board Chairman Kurt Fuller stated, “*The AGs were liars, and the sex abuse allegations were consensual.*” This statement added to the growing concerns about the

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<sup>9</sup> (<https://fireflyisai.com>)

<sup>10</sup> See <https://ihopkc.org/about-the-prayer-room>

handling of sexual abuse allegations within the organization, raising questions about accountability and transparency. IW #45 was taken aback by Fuller's remarks and felt compelled to document the statement. They noted that such comments could have significant implications for ongoing investigations and the organization's reputation. IW #45's decision to come forward with this information stemmed from a deep sense of duty to ensure transparency and accountability within IHOPKC.

The IHOPKC leadership must address these allegations transparently and take concrete steps to ensure the safety and well-being of all members. The voices of those who remain silent are a powerful reminder of the work that still needs to be done to create a truly safe and supportive community. IW #178, when asked what they would like to see after a third-party investigation, replied, “*Best case scenario, the current leaders at IHOPKC choose to be transparent and stop all operations until the organization has been scrubbed clean of dangerous, predator-protecting practices.*” This sentiment echoes the frustrations of many within the IHOPKC community who feel that genuine accountability and reform are necessary for restoring trust and fostering a culture of safety and respect. It highlights the urgent need for IHOPKC leadership to take decisive action and implement meaningful changes that reflect their commitment to protecting all members.

IHOPKC has indeed faced serious allegations of sexual and spiritual abuse. BICKLE, the founder, has been accused of misconduct spanning decades involving multiple women. These allegations highlight a troubling pattern within this particular institution, where abuse was allowed to persist unchecked, often with perpetrators being protected rather than held accountable.

This issue is not just a matter of individual misconduct but reflects a broader pattern within religious institutions. The phrase “sanctuary of sexual predators” in the church highlights the historical and ongoing problem of religious organizations providing cover for clergy and other religious figures accused of sexual abuse.<sup>11</sup> Often, instead of reporting these allegations to proper

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<sup>11</sup> Denney, Andrew S., Loyola University New Orleans. (2023). Child Sex Abusers in Protestant Christian Churches: An Offender Typology. *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology*. <https://www.qualitativecriminology.com/pub/osa148h6/release/2>



authorities, institutions have promoted and transferred perpetrators, allowing them to continue their abusive behavior. Through the victims and witnesses interviewed, we have found there was a culture of systematic abuse and cover-ups that thrived at IHOPKC.

## **Allegations of sexually abusive misconduct by Mike BICKLE in his association with the International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO**

We have made multiple attempts to contact BICKLE and have been unable to elicit any response from him.

Throughout the investigation, we determined that seventeen (17) Interviewed Survivors were victims of either sexual abuse or sexually abusive misconduct by BICKLE, spanning from mid-1970 to 2023.

Timeframe of the Named Interviewed Survivors:

- Terry Hartley - Mid-1970
- Tammy Woods - 1980 to 1988
- Deborah Perkins - 1996 to 1999

The remaining fourteen (14) Interviewed Survivors reported their abuse occurring between 2002 and 2023. This abuse included incidents that occurred over various periods: one incident over eight years from 2004 to 2012, another over eighteen years from 2005 to 2023 (one just before the allegations became public in 2023), one that happened in 2012, and another over six months from January 2023 to June 2023.

The sexually abusive misconduct from 2002 and 2023 included unwanted kissing to the forehead, cheeks, and neck areas, unwanted hugs, unwanted back rubs, running hands through a woman's hair, and unwanted leg touching, including running his hand up a woman's bare thigh while she was wearing a dress (2012), and making inappropriate comments about her leg being shaved. There were times when BICKLE would forcefully grab women by the neck, placing them in chokeholds. The last incident was in 2023, where he grabbed a woman by her neck, and his hands moved from her neck down to her shoulders, caressing both shoulders with his face

close to hers. We also revealed three instances where victims observed BICKLE naked, with an erection. The last incident was reported in 2003.

In an email dated October 23, 2023, at 12:42 PM, BICKLE wrote to IW #13, (IS) Deborah [REDACTED] husband, reminding him of the Matthew 18 process. Towards the end of the email, BICKLE states, *“I am still waiting for the ladies who allegedly have a story to come to me and Stuart according to Matthew 18:15-18. I am very sure none will come because they do have a real story. I’m praying.”*<sup>12</sup> (Verbatim quote.)

Throughout the investigation, we have identified and interviewed seventeen (17) Survivors who were either sexually abused or experienced sexually abusive misconduct, including sexual abuse, rape, clergy abuse, and spiritual abuse, perpetrated by BICKLE beginning to our knowledge in the mid-1970s. These acts of abuse have had profound and lasting impacts on the lives of the victims, causing significant emotional, psychological, and spiritual harm. The survivors have shown immense courage in coming forward to share their experiences despite the fear and trauma associated with these events.

On October 28th, 2023, BICKLE called IW #17. According to IW #17, BICKLE stated, *“I need to let you know about a little fire—Deborah [REDACTED] has come forward.”* According to IW #17, BICKLE went on to disclose that when he (BICKLE) and (IS) Deborah Perkins were in Paris, *“he was praying hard with her, and he started kissing her.”*

BICKLE also told IW #17 that on another trip, he had booked a hotel for (IS) Deborah Perkins to stay in for a night, stating that Diane was out of town. BICKLE told IW #17 that he had taken a shower, and when he got out, he had left the door open, and (IS) Deborah Perkins saw him completely naked. When IW #17 questioned him about it, BICKLE stated that *“he wasn’t the most righteous man.”*

On December 12, 2023, BICKLE admitted to "inappropriate behavior" and "moral failures" that occurred over 20 years ago. This confession came after allegations of sexual misconduct

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<sup>12</sup> See attached October 23, 2023, email

emerged. BICKLE expressed deep regret for his actions and asked for forgiveness, though he denied the more severe accusations against him.

Before the publicly released statement, on or about November 30, 2023, BICKLE sent a first draft of his confession letter, dated December 1st to IW #12 for review. It stated:

*To my family and friends, December 1, 2023*

*“With a very heavy heart I want to express how terribly sorry I am that my past sins have led to so much pain, confusion, and division in the body of Christ in this hour. I am confessing that 20+ years ago, I sinned by engaging in inappropriate conversations and behavior – my acts of indiscretions were spontaneous, brief, and rare. **(they did not include some of the more intense sexual activities that some are suggesting)**, yet I saw my sins as grievous before a holy God. Since I take sin seriously, on those occasions I quickly and sincerely repented in a way that gave me assurance with God (ps. 18:35; 51:1). The Lord helped me to respond with a broken and contrite heart that was filled with Godly sorrow (Ps. 51:17; Cor. 7:10).”*


The draft statement was revised before the final release, with BICKLE changing, “*They did not include some of the more intense sexual activities that some are suggesting,*” to the publicly released version of, “*I am not admitting to the more intense sexual activities that some are suggesting*”. Copies of both correspondences have been obtained through this investigation.

In the final statement made by BICKLE on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, he stated the following:

*“To my family and friends, December 12, 2023*

*With a very heavy heart I want to express how deeply grieved I am that my past sins have led to so much pain, confusion, and division in the body of Christ in this hour. I sadly admit that 20+ years ago, I sinned by engaging in inappropriate behavior—my moral failures were real. **(I am not admitting to the more intense sexual activities that some are suggesting)**. I hate my sin and I see it as serious and grievous before a holy God. I take all sin seriously, so on those occasions I quickly and sincerely repented in a way that resulted in receiving assurance from God followed by a daily resolve to live holy in all of my ways. God graciously helped me to respond in those times with a broken and contrite heart that was filled with godly sorrow. To this day, I remain sorrowful about those past failures.*

← **Mike Bickle**  
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 **Mike Bickle** @mikebickle · Dec 12, 2023  
Mike Bickle personal Message (Dec 12th 2023) ...

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***MIKE BICKLE'S PERSONAL STATEMENT***

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To my Family and Friends, December 12, 2023

With a very heavy heart I want to express how deeply grieved I am that my past sins have led to so much pain, confusion, and division in the body of Christ in this hour. I sadly admit that 20+ years ago, I sinned by engaging in inappropriate behavior—my moral failures were real. (I am not admitting to the more intense sexual activities that some are suggesting). I hate my sin and I see it as serious and grievous before a holy God. I take all sin seriously, so on those occasions I quickly and sincerely repented in a way that resulted in receiving assurance from God followed by a daily resolve to live holy in all of my ways. God graciously helped me to respond in those times with a broken and contrite heart that was filled with godly sorrow. To this day, I remain sorrowful about those past failures.

I am anguished that my past sins have caused great pain for my wife and family along with the IHOPKC family, and others. I am deeply sorry that my sin put the IHOPKC leadership and community in a very painful and difficult position. I asked my family for forgiveness. I now ask for forgiveness from the IHOPKC family and many in the body of Christ.

Some may wonder why I am just now making a public statement 20+ years later? It is because I was recently confronted about things that I said or did 20+ years ago—things I believed were dealt with and under the blood of Jesus. Since this has now become public, I want to repent publicly. On October 28, 2023, I wrote the first draft of this statement but at that very same time, false allegations of sexual abuse were being circulated against me. I was given legal advice to wait to make my statement public for several important reasons—including creating the misunderstanding that I was confessing to the false allegations that were circulating. I am very sorry that it took so long for this personal statement to come out. This delay created additional pain, anguish, division, and more for so many people that I love. I am deeply sorry for this.

Since late October terrible things have been written against me in various communications (blogs, articles, posts, etc.) that describe me and various sinful things that I allegedly did. There are many misrepresentations of my words and actions in these communications including statements that are out of context, greatly exaggerated, or blatantly false.

I ask that my family and friends do not defend me. I have confidence that the Lord will speak concerning what He sees and says about me in His timing. Please do not engage in debates on social media to defend me and please do not criticize those who are voicing their disdain for me. Please only speak blessing to them and about them (Mt. 5:44). In this way, we can minimize some of the divisiveness that the enemy has planned—and we can continue to stay focused on loving Jesus and one another. I am deeply committed to respond to those with complaints against me in the spirit of Psalm 18:35—both now and in the years to come. Some who have spoken against me are friends (I will continue to view them as friends).

For an extended season, I will not engage in my public preaching ministry (conferences, social media, zooms, etc.)—I see this as God's "delayed" loving discipline on my life (Heb. 12:6, 11). I will look to other leaders to determine how long this season will last—it may be long and it may even be permanent. I will only reengage in my public preaching ministry, if God confirms it through others. I am at peace with whatever He wants (2 Sam. 15:25-26). *Jesus, I love and trust You!*

I honor and love the IHOPKC community and will forever be grateful for them. They are a most remarkable people—they are truly marvelous comrades. I know the Lord is with them and that His favor and grace will continue to rest on them.

Pray for me, Diane, and my beloved family. They have expressed their love and support for me in extravagant ways. With much sorrow yet with prayerful confidence in God's perfect leadership,  
Mike Bickle

BICKLE, as a pastor and leader, was entrusted with the care of his congregation's spiritual well-being; however, he betrayed this trust by misusing his position of authority to engage in sexual misconduct with multiple victims. His actions not only violated the sanctity of his role but also caused profound harm to those he was meant to guide and protect. As Dr. Diane Langberg explains, “Clergy sexual abuse is an abuse of power and desecration of the name of Christ. It is not an affair, nor is the victim equally culpable. The safety of God's sheep results from His

*character not theirs. And so it should be for the broken, confused, wounded sheep and our communities. They should be safe because of the shepherd's character and where they are not, a shepherd's character is exposed as being abusive of power, deceptive and clearly unlike the character of the one he calls master.”*<sup>13</sup>

## **Manipulative and Sophisticated Grooming Tactics**

Before we can address the specific nature of sexually abusive misconduct by BICKLE, we must look at the systemic patterns of behavior of a sexual abuse offender. Through multiple interviews, we were able to observe very distinct patterns that BICKLE used in the course of his conduct.

Sexual grooming is a manipulative process where an abuser builds a relationship, trust, and emotional connection with a victim to exploit and abuse them, and it often involves a series of calculated steps to gain the victim's trust and isolate them from others. Grooming is described as a deliberate behavior used to manipulate another person over time, intending to erode their defenses and gain control over their actions. “In essence, *grooming* is the process of an offender using gifts, power, or some other enticement to initially sexually abuse and to continue their abuse.”<sup>14</sup>

In 1997, BICKLE initiated an informal program called “Friends of the Bridegroom,” which consisted of a research team of a carefully selected group of 18-19-year-olds, primarily girls. Victims and witnesses stated that BICKLE would meet privately with the group, laying his hands on each of them and praying for them. The group was required to fast and maintain celibacy, and many of the victims referred to this group as “BICKLE’S Team, “MYSTICS Team,” or MIKES Team.” Victims reported that BICKLE often crossed inappropriate boundaries, frequently coming and going as he pleased in the apartment they were staying at, buying gifts, and providing money. IS #18 stated that BICKLE “*bred a secrecy*” between the group of girls, using

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<sup>13</sup> Dr. Diane Langberg, “Sexual Abuse in Christian Organizations”

<sup>14</sup> Orleans, A. S. D., Loyola University New. (2023). Child Sex Abusers in Protestant Christian Churches: An Offender Typology. *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.21428/88de04a1.000ff84d>

prophetic words to address each girl specifically. This behavior contributed to an environment of unease and discomfort for the girls involved, raising concerns about their well-being and the program's true nature.

IW #170 said BICKLE frequently described his marriage with Diane as “*almost celibate.*” Their relationship was characterized as "special," with BICKLE indicating that he was exempt from the usual expectations of marriage.

From those we spoke with, BICKLE was seen as a fatherly figure and took on the role of protector. He always had a group of young girls around him and was rarely seen in public with his wife, Diane.

This grooming was evident with (IS) Deborah Perkins. BICKLE had known (IS) Deborah Perkins' family for some time, and he and Diane, BICKLE'S wife, were close to them. This relationship allowed him to gain the family's trust and access to Deborah. Over time, BICKLE'S charm and persuasive nature enabled him to exert his influence, gradually drawing (IS) Deborah Perkins into his circle.

IW #194 reported that BICKLE took a keen interest in her and her family, including (IS) Deborah Perkins. BICKLE would often take them to the park to play football, treat them to meals at restaurants, and accompany them to the bookstore, investing a significant amount of time with them. Both IW #194 and (IS) Deborah Perkins admired BICKLE and respected who he was. This tactic is often used by individuals to gain the trust of those around them. In this case, BICKLE'S strategy appeared to win over (IS) Deborah Perkins' family, thus gaining their confidence and isolating her.

In 1980, BICKLE emerged as a significant figure within (IS) Tammy Woods' (MINOR – 14-year-old) family, forming close ties with her entire family, including her grandmother. He and her father became best friends. (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) described him as charming and charismatic, with a contagious passion for Jesus. (IS) Tammy Woods' (MINOR) family was always unified and tight as a family. BICKLE became a force that invaded their family time, becoming an all-consuming factor in their lives as he orchestrated opportunities for the families to be together.

BICKLE was able to gain the trust of (IS) Terry Hartley (MINOR – 15-year-old) and her family. This was a well-thought-out tactic that BICKLE used within his grooming and selection process. Everyone looked up to him and admired his ability to connect on a personal level. His charm and persuasive skills were instrumental in winning over the family, making them feel valued and understood. BICKLE'S calculated approach allowed him to subtly influence their thoughts and actions, embedding himself deeply into their lives.

BICKLE would show up at (IS) Tammy Woods' (MINOR) high school and place surprise gifts in her locker to make her feel special. These visits to her school were a strategic part of the grooming process, aimed at gaining her trust and increasing her dependency on him.

BICKLE employed a variety of manipulative tactics against his victims. These women were systematically and intentionally groomed into harmful, emotional, and spiritual abuse. His calculated actions created an environment of control and exploitation, where the victims were coerced into compliance and silence. This deliberate grooming process not only inflicted deep psychological and emotional trauma but also eroded their sense of self-worth and trust.

In a private meeting with Judy Doughty, BICKLE, and IW #202, a 17-year-old female, BICKLE mentioned that he wanted her to be “the next Misty.” (Misty Edwards was IHOPKC’s most famous worship leader.) According to IW #202, BICKLE offered her an empty apartment to live rent-free, suggesting she could “go hard” in the prayer room. This incident exemplifies the early grooming practices experienced by young interns in the prayer room.

Many repeated patterns were observed among the victims. These patterns included systematic grooming, emotional manipulation, and spiritual abuse. The victims were often isolated from their support networks, making them more vulnerable to BICKLE’S control. This consistent and deliberate approach further highlights the calculated nature of his actions and the widespread impact on the victims' lives.

Sexual abuse isn't always apparent, even to the person experiencing it. Victims are often groomed by their predators, making them feel that the events they have experienced are not

sexual and do not constitute abuse. This report aims to shed light on the manipulative tactics used by abusers and the profound impact these actions have on victims.

BICKLE was known in the church and his neighborhood for his generosity towards the young children around him. He would often give them candy and money, small tokens that brought immense joy to their young hearts. His actions, however, were not just casual acts of kindness. For some children and teens, BICKLE'S gestures were more personalized, as he singled them out, making them feel exceptionally special through his words and actions. IW #190, who vividly recalled her teenage years, stated that she remembered explicitly being singled out by BICKLE.

Most victims were roughly 20 years younger than BICKLE and were in positions where he had easy access to them. This age disparity and the victims' proximity to BICKLE allowed him to exploit his authority and influence over them. By targeting individuals who were younger and more vulnerable, BICKLE was able to manipulate and control them more effectively, further entrenching the cycle of abuse. As previously noted, this was observed in the stories shared by (IS) Terry Hartley (age 15) and (IS) Tammy Woods (age 14), both minors, and both whom experienced the grooming behavior of BICKLE.

BICKLE would make his victims feel special and singled out with his intense focus, sometimes publicly from his platform as a preacher. IW #70 stated that BICKLE would make her feel special by prophesying over her that she was an "Esther." He often gave her gifts and money, making her feel special. He created a sense of importance and exclusivity by giving victims attention and recognition. The public displays of attention further isolated the victims, as they felt a unique connection to BICKLE that others did not share.

BICKLE'S behavior towards (IS) Deborah Perkins, a 19-year-old intern, followed a similar pattern of manipulation and control. He created a sense of dependency and obligation by showering her with gifts, money, and places to live. His regular visits to her apartment and taking her for rides were tactics to isolate her and establish a private, controlled environment. She received special treatment from BICKLE. This grooming process made (IS) Deborah Perkins feel special and valued, but it was a calculated move to gain her trust and compliance.

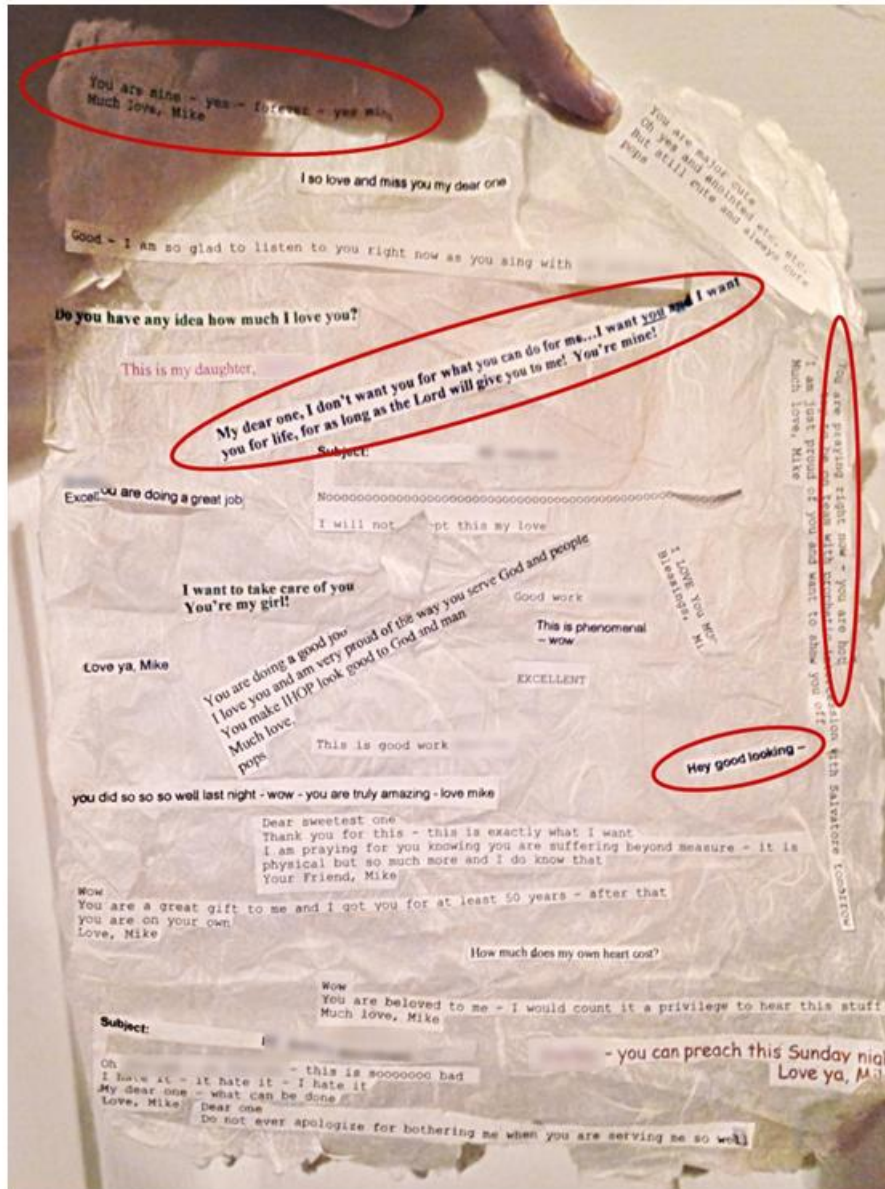


As time went on, BICKLE'S control over (IS) Deborah Perkins intensified. He began to dictate her daily activities, limiting her interactions with others and reinforcing her reliance on him. This isolation further entrenched her dependency, making it increasingly difficult for her to break free from his influence. The special treatment she received was a double-edged sword, as it simultaneously made her feel privileged and trapped. The emotional turmoil caused by this manipulation left her struggling to understand her own feelings and the reality of the situation.

According to our interviews, BICKLE often commented on young women's appearances in over-the-top and publicly embarrassing ways. While these comments were intended to be affirming, they often had the opposite effect, making the recipients feel uncomfortable and objectified.

IW #85 remembered numerous interactions where BICKLE would make comments to women such as, "You know how much I love you," "You're mine forever," and offer "Papa time." According to IW #85, he would shower the girls around him with gift cards, special movie nights, and food.

Another example of BICKLE'S comments toward women was shown during the interview of IS #18, who had been collecting various phrases and clips BICKLE had sent her, assembling them into a scrapbook. Some of these clippings from BICKLE consisted of the following: *"I love you MUCH, Blessings, Mike," "You are truly amazing—love Mike," "Hey, good looking," "How much does my own heart cost?," and "My dear one, I don't want you for what you can do for me...I want you, and I want you for life, for as long as the Lord will give you to me! You're mine!"* These messages highlight the inappropriate boundaries that BICKLE had overstepped, as they reflect a level of intimacy and possessiveness that was unwarranted and intrusive. BICKLE'S communications blurred the lines between professional and personal interactions, creating an uncomfortable and potentially harmful dynamic for IS #18.



In a group setting at a restaurant, IW #105 observed BICKLE with his hands on another woman beneath the table, where he was seen rubbing the woman's leg. Similarly, IW #6 observed BICKLE running his hands up a woman's leg at another restaurant with a group of people. These incidents highlight a pattern of inappropriate behavior by BICKLE in public settings, raising concerns about his conduct and the potential impact on those around him.

## **Gaining Access and Isolating the Victim**

BICKLE was revered as a special prophet within IHOPKC. His followers and staff members admired him deeply and sought his approval and presence, viewing him as a profoundly godly individual. This level of admiration created an environment where people were more inclined to please him and less likely to question his actions or authority.

This dynamic contributed to the systemic issues within the organization, as the desire to stay in BICKLE'S favor often outweighed the imperative to address misconduct and support victims. The culture of idolizing leaders like BICKLE allowed harmful behaviors to persist and be covered up.

BICKLE was a master at physically and emotionally separating his victims, thus allowing him access to them. He employed various tactics to isolate his victims from their support networks, making them more vulnerable to his control. The time spent in proximity with BICKLE was a commodity of the ministry.

BICKLE'S manipulation of (IS) Deborah Perkins extended to controlling her lifestyle and daily habits. By convincing her to follow the isolation of the early "desert fathers."<sup>15</sup> By isolating her from others, he further entrenched her dependency on him. The requirement to fast three days a week was another method of control, weakening her physically and emotionally and making her more susceptible to his influence.

Another manipulative tactic BICKLE employed was the promise of special anointing and ministries tied to his apostolic chariot-vision-initiated calling. He used these promises to entice

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<sup>15</sup> <https://earlychurchhistory.org/who-were-the-desert-fathers/>

and control his victims, creating a sense of dependency and obligation. This spiritual manipulation exploited the victims' faith and trust, further deepening the emotional and spiritual abuse. By leveraging these promises, BICKLE maintained a position of power and influence, making it even more challenging for the victims to recognize and escape the abusive environment.

Furthermore, according to victim and witness interviews, BICKLE claimed that individuals who were closely connected to him would receive unique spiritual blessings and ministries. This tactic created a sense of exclusivity and spiritual superiority among his followers, making them more susceptible to his control and less likely to question his actions.

### **Trust Development and Keeping Secrets**

BICKLE gained the trust of his victims due to his position of authority. He used various tactics such as giving gifts, providing attention, and sharing "secrets" to make the victims feel that they had a caring relationship with him. This manipulation was designed to create a sense of loyalty and dependency, making the victims more susceptible to his control. By fostering this false sense of trust, BICKLE was able to train his victims to keep the relationship secret, further isolating them and deepening the emotional and spiritual abuse. This deliberate strategy of trust development and secrecy highlights the calculated nature of his actions and the profound impact on the victims' lives.

BICKLE told women he was "*their spiritual father*" and not to tell anyone what was happening. This manipulation tactic further isolated his victims, making them feel dependent on him for spiritual guidance and support. By positioning himself as a paternal figure, he exploited their trust and loyalty, deepening the emotional and psychological control he had over them. This secrecy also prevented victims from seeking help or sharing their experiences with others, allowing the abuse to continue unchecked. The combination of spiritual authority and enforced silence created a powerful and damaging dynamic that left many victims feeling trapped and powerless.

(IS) Terry Hartley (MINOR) described how she felt very special being around BICKLE and seemed to have formed a “soul tie” with him, a bond that persisted even into adulthood. She spoke of the unique connection she felt with BICKLE, one that transcended ordinary relationships. This deep emotional bond made it challenging for (IS) Terry Hartley (MINOR) to fully grasp the manipulative nature of BICKLE'S actions.

This grooming was evident with (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) in 1980 when she babysat for the BICKLE family. BICKLE was able to bond with her family and gain their trust, which allowed free access to her. This is a common tactic with sexual predators to gain the trust of everyone around them. This manipulation made her feel as though she had no one else to turn to.

The gifts and attention, driving her to and from school, which initially seemed kind, became tools of control. BICKLE would sometimes drive (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) and her sister to gymnastics as an excuse to be with (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) at the park during her sister's lessons. When (IS) Tammy Woods' (MINOR) mother drove her sister to gymnastics, BICKLE would come to their home to be alone with her. BICKLE'S flirtatious behavior turned into inappropriate advances, leaving (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) feeling confused and trapped.

After picking (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) up from her uncle's veterinary clinic and taking her to Mazzio's Pizza to talk about babysitting, BICKLE shared Proverbs 31:30 with her: “*Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.*”<sup>16</sup> She struggled to reconcile the image of the caring family friend with the reality of his predatory actions. He would make her feel special with gifts, sharing Bible verses, and food.

BICKLE sexually abused (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) throughout her high school and college years until she got married in 1988 after she graduated from college. BICKLE'S emotional abuse via deception and manipulation continued for decades until his exposure.

After her graduation from high school, (IS) Tammy Woods attended two different colleges. BICKLE visited her during her time at both. The first visit was during her sophomore year at Covenant College on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. BICKLE was attending a conference

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<sup>16</sup> See Proverbs 31:30

three hours away, and he drove three hours each way to take her out to dinner. When BICKLE drove her back up the mountain after dinner, he parked the car, and they sat overlooking the city lights of Chattanooga. BICKLE reminded her that Diane was going to die, and they would be married. BICKLE told her he would bring her back to that exact spot when he could officially propose to her.

During (IS) Tammy Woods' junior year of college, she was at the University of Missouri-Columbia, living with roommates in a condo. BICKLE planned a pre-arranged layover at the little Columbia airport and spent the day with her. During this visit BICKLE sexually abused her at her condo.

According to (IS) Terry Hartley (MINOR), in the mid-1970s, while BICKLE was a youth group intern at Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, and (IS) Terry Hartley (MINOR) was a 15-year-old student, the grooming escalated to her being sexually assaulted when BICKLE kissed her on the lips and fondled her breasts.

On one occasion, a ski trip to Colorado was organized through the church. Both (IS) Tammy Woods' (MINOR) and BICKLE'S families, along with others, planned to attend. BICKLE pressured (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) into not going on the trip. At the last minute, he backed out also so that his wife and her parents went without them. (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) stayed with her grandmother. This gave BICKLE the opportunity to be alone with her. After the family left for the ski trip, BICKLE took (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) to an outdoor plaza with lights and music. They walked around as he put his arm around her and held her hand. When they got cold, he took her into a little Italian restaurant and ordered two glasses of red wine. (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR), who was 14 years old at the time, stated, "It felt like my first date." By offering (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) wine, BICKLE exhibited a blatant disregard for her well-being and displayed a glaring pattern of manipulation.

During a mission trip to Paris in 1997, BICKLE gave (IS) Deborah Perkins two cocktails after dinner while they were alone. This behavior further exemplifies his attempts to blur boundaries and normalize inappropriate conduct. By introducing alcohol, he aimed to lower the victim's

inhibitions and increase their vulnerability. This tactic is often used by abusers to gain further control over their victims and to make them more compliant.

BICKLE'S manipulation extended beyond just offering alcohol. During the time period BICKLE was paying for her apartment, he would give (IS) Deborah Perkins small white pills with a glass of wine "to help her sleep." He also kept her isolated. He used these moments to reinforce his control, making the victims feel special and chosen, while simultaneously isolating them from others who might offer support or intervention. This duality of making the victims feel privileged yet trapped is a hallmark of predatory behavior.

BICKLE'S manipulation extended to spiritualizing his demands for secrecy with (IS) Deborah Perkins. By framing his requirements in a religious context, he further exploited her faith and trust. This tactic made her feel as though keeping their interactions secret was not only necessary but also divinely sanctioned.

## **Controlling Behavior**

Sexual offenders often employ a range of controlling behaviors to maintain power over their victims. These tactics can include emotional manipulation, threats, and even physical intimidation. According to Stanton Samenow, Ph.D., one thinking pattern of sexual offenders involves the pursuit of power and control: "*A critical part of the perpetrator's self-image is being able to dominate others. He proceeds to do this as he pursues whomever he finds attractive.*"<sup>17</sup>

By creating an environment of fear and dependency, the offender ensures that the victim feels trapped and unable to seek help. This control extends to various aspects of the victim's life, including their social interactions, daily routines, and even their thoughts and feelings. The psychological impact of such control can be devastating, leading to long-term trauma and difficulties in forming healthy relationships.

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<sup>17</sup> The Thinking Processes of Sexual Predators: With Enhanced Power, the Predator Reveals Himself. Posted December 15, 2017, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/inside-the-criminal-mind/201712/the-thinking-processes-of-sexual-predators>

(IS) Tammy Woods was persuaded to cut her hair and use specific code words between her and BICKLE. BICKLE wanted (IS) Tammy Woods to move to Kansas City to be close to him. He planned to set her up in an apartment by herself and make her his personal secretary. BICKLE manipulated her into taking a year-long, two-hour secretarial practice course in her senior year so she would be skilled enough for his plan. Sadly, she had to drop her French studies to do so, even though she loved French. Prior to dropping French, she had been recommended for the International Exchange Program.

BICKLE not only tried to manipulate his victims as minors but also stayed in touch with them as they grew older. He persuaded them to join him in the Kansas City movement, a tactic designed to keep them under his influence. By maintaining these connections, BICKLE ensured that his control over the victims extended well into their adult lives, further entrenching the cycle of manipulation and abuse.

Victims reported often being terrified about what was going to happen when BICKLE approached them. IS #10, while standing in the prayer room, stated she was approached from behind by BICKLE, who placed her in a chokehold and touched her face with his hands. This aggressive and inappropriate behavior further emphasizes the alarming nature of BICKLE'S actions and the fear he instilled in women. This incident highlighted the pervasive sense of danger and violation experienced by the victims.

(IS) Deborah Perkins felt particularly special and valued when BICKLE provided her with an apartment and a key to his office. These gestures were not only symbols of trust and favor but also tools of control and dependency. By giving her these privileges, BICKLE reinforced the illusion of a special relationship, further entrenching her loyalty and compliance. However, these acts were calculated moves to maintain dominance and ensure she felt obligated to him. The complexity of such manipulation can leave victims feeling both privileged and trapped, making it even harder to break free from the abuser's influence.

BICKLE'S manipulation extended to creating a distorted narrative where he cast himself as the Priest, his wife Diane as the Nun, and (IS) Deborah Perkins as the Shulamite. This twisted portrayal further exploited (IS) Deborah Perkins' faith and trust, making her feel as though their



relationship was divinely ordained. By using religious imagery and roles, BICKLE deepened his control over her, reinforcing the idea that their interactions were special and justified.

As time passed, BICKLE’S behavior escalated, becoming increasingly inappropriate and predatory. He began to exhibit manipulative tactics, isolating (IS) Deborah Perkins from her support network and gaining her trust through calculated actions. This ultimately culminated in the sexual assaults of (IS) Deborah Perkins.

On November 16th, 2023, at 8:56 PM, BICKLE emailed<sup>18</sup> the husband of (IS) Deborah Perkins, writing:

*“I assure you that I will honor you and your family all my days. I will never present you or any of our friends as betrayers or agents of the Black Horse. I want peace, humility, and love for Jesus and one another, and reconciliation with all of us—I know that will take some years, but this is what I am contending for. I am totally against any speaking against, attacking, or suing one another, etc. I will not allow anything negative to happen to any of them to the degree that I have influence. I will zealously advocate for blessing those who are against me.”*

*“My heart for you has not changed even 1%. I saw the Lord crown you in 2004—that is how He sees you and so I will always agree with Him in this. It is the same with Deborah I have some insight into how the Lord sees her.”* He went on to say, *“I will never present you or any of our friends as betrayers or agents of the Black Horse.”*

Even as the story unfolds, BICKLE reaches for the prophetic manipulation he has used so often over the years. By claiming to have “some insight into how the Lord sees her,” he continues his controlling behavior and passes blame, suggesting the possibility that (IS) Deborah Perkins and her husband might be seen as betrayers or agents of the Black Horse.

On October 9, 2023, at 7:58 PM, BICKLE emailed IW #13, (IS) Deborah Perkins' husband, stating, *“However, I cannot imagine the relational anguish and confusion it would cause in the multi-level long-term sovereign relationship with IHOP and Deborah.”* BICKLE goes on to say,

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<sup>18</sup> See attached November 16, 2023 email

*“I realize that she has not betrayed me at this point (so forgive me for using such ugly language as ‘betrayal’) but even the chance of her doing this creates great pain in me (but not anger at her)—that a most trusted friend did this to me at the end of my life after 40 years of being in prayer meetings many hours a day, six days a week.”* This was a clear message on how BICKLE reversed the blame for what had occurred, placing it on (IS) Deborah Perkins and portraying her as the instigator of his distress. By doing so, BICKLE effectively positioned himself as a victim of betrayal despite (IS) Deborah Perkins’ actions being seen in a different light. This manipulation shifted the narrative away from the actual events and highlighted the emotional toll it allegedly took on BICKLE, further victimizing (IS) Deborah Perkins in the process.<sup>19</sup>

## **Desensitization to Touch**

BICKLE was a master at the casual touch of a victim that appeared harmless, such as hugging, wrestling, kissing, choking, touching legs, touching thighs, and tickling. BICKLE would then escalate his touching to be increasingly more sexual with certain victims. Witnesses would often see BICKLE, during church services and prayer meetings, grab girls by their throats, kiss them on their faces, and ruffle their hair. This behavior, masked as innocent affection, was a calculated tactic to desensitize his victims to physical contact, gradually pushing boundaries until they were normalized. By doing so, he created an environment where his actions were less likely to be questioned or resisted, further entrenching his control over his victims. His ability to blend these actions into seemingly benign interactions made it difficult for others to recognize the abuse, allowing him to continue his predatory behavior unchecked. The psychological impact on his victims was profound, as they struggled to reconcile their trust in a spiritual leader with the violation of their personal boundaries.

IS #32 reported that she participated in the Night Watch program from January to June 2023. She recalled eight encounters with BICKLE that were “very inappropriate.” Two of these incidents occurred in the rapid-fire prayer line at approximately 1:00 AM. She felt a hand on her neck, froze, and realized it was BICKLE. His hands moved from her neck down to her shoulders, caressing both shoulders with his face close to hers. IS #32 stated, “I felt frozen and in fright mode.” She reached out to her leader, but the conversation never progressed.

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<sup>19</sup> See attached email dated October 9, 2023

This incident highlights how victims can feel violated and powerless, especially when their concerns are not addressed, allowing the abuser to continue their behavior.

IW #7 stated that she observed BICKLE single out a young woman in the prayer room, making her feel special by rubbing her shoulders and face with his fingers.

BICKLE'S grooming of IS #5, IS #6, and IS #7 followed a similar pattern of manipulation and control. He created an illusion of affection and care by whispering in their ear, rubbing their shoulders, and caressing their hair. However, his actions were far from benign. The physical control he exerted by grabbing their necks and forcibly gripping under their ear while commenting on their hair or appearance was a clear display of dominance and power.

IS# 4 stated that BICKLE would kiss her all over her face, even in the prayer room. This happened both in front of people and when they were alone, which made her feel especially powerless. BICKLE would give her back and shoulder rubs, rub her legs and thighs, and hug her way too long and inappropriately. He would put her in headlocks and hold her while touching her hair and face. He would comment on her appearance and even told her how to dress.

IS #28 stated that BICKLE would hug and kiss her on her forehead in the prayer room. She noted how it was *“Alarming to think that other leaders knew of Mike’s issues and still allowed him to touch women in the prayer room without holding him accountable.”*

IS #29 stated that while in the prayer room, BICKLE would touch her lower back, grab her from the back of the neck, and kiss her on her cheeks, forehead, and the top of her head.

IW #15 advised that he observed BICKLE, in September 2023, touch a singer in the prayer room by her chin as he slowly ran his hand up her jaw. Alarmed by what he had observed, IW #15 reported the incident to a staff pastor who turned to Isaac Bennett<sup>20</sup> and Dave Sliker<sup>21</sup> for assistance. BENNETT and SLIKER dismissed the concern, stating, *“That’s just the way BICKLE is,”* and no action was taken. This pastor reported these comments back to IW #15. This

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<sup>20</sup> Hereafter referred to as BENNETT

<sup>21</sup> Hereafter referred to as SLIKER

lack of response further underscored the troubling environment and the normalization of BICKLE'S inappropriate behavior.

BICKLE'S behavior towards IS #9 in 2012 is another clear example of his manipulative and predatory tactics. According to IS #9, BICKLE created an illusion of affection and care by rubbing her back, running his fingers through her hair, and kissing her face. However, these actions were far from innocent. In a one-on-one situation, his behavior escalated as he placed his hand on her bare leg, ran it up to her thigh, and made the inappropriate comment, "*Freshly shaved,*" according to IS #9. This conduct was designed to blur boundaries and normalize inappropriate behavior, making IS #9 feel confused and powerless.

BICKLE'S actions were not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern of manipulation and control. By targeting IS #9, he exploited her vulnerability and trust, using physical touch and inappropriate comments to assert dominance. This behavior is indicative of a deeper issue, where BICKLE'S actions are calculated to undermine IS #9's sense of self-worth and autonomy.

IW #66 recounted how BICKLE extended his hand, in front of others, and touched her face with his palm. On another occasion he commented on her makeup. On yet another occasion, while she was seated at a table in the prayer room, BICKLE approached her from behind, placed her in a chokehold, and smiled at her. She was startled and scared by the sudden and aggressive action.

Another example of BICKLE'S manipulation was kissing IS #16 on the head and face while giving her cash. BICKLE'S behavior towards IS #16 is another clear example of his manipulative tactics. By kissing her on the head and face while giving her money, he created a false sense of affection and care. This act was designed to make her feel unique and valued while reinforcing her dependency on him.

Other examples of inappropriate touching or behavior between BICKLE and women within the church were detailed by IW #18, IW #20, IW #66, IW #6, IW #32, IW #95, IW #175, and IW #92.

IW #18 observed an adult female with her hands inside BICKLE'S pants in his office. IW #20, walking into BICKLE'S office, observed an adult woman rubbing BICKLE'S legs as he sat in

his chair and the woman on the floor. One evening, IW #66 walked into BICKLE'S office and observed an adult female on her knees at BICKLE'S feet as he sat at his desk. IW #6 reported seeing BICKLE caress a staff person's knee under a table at a restaurant. IW #32 stated he observed hundreds of secretive communications between his wife and BICKLE over six years. He noted that his wife would spend many hours alone with BICKLE in his office and other locations, bringing him food and providing personal massages using essential oils on bare skin. IW #95, on multiple occasions, would see food being brought in by IW #32's wife to BICKLE. Additionally, IW #175 reported an incident where, upon entering BICKLE'S office, they observed an inappropriate action involving BICKLE and IW 32's wife, with her hand inside BICKLE'S pants. IW #92, concerned about what was occurring between BICKLE and IW #32's wife, advised they reach out to Stuart Greaves<sup>22</sup>, Lenny LaGuardia<sup>23</sup>, Marci Sorge<sup>24</sup>, Daniel Lim<sup>25</sup>, SLIKER, BENNETT, and Joseph Taylor<sup>26</sup> about the inappropriate relationship, but no action was taken. LIM stated that he had no knowledge of what was happening between IW #32's wife and BICKLE until 2023 or 2024 and continued to offer pastoral care for IW #32.

These witnessed incidents, regardless of whether consensual, between BICKLE and presumably several women highlight a pattern of behavior that is not only unprofessional but also deeply troubling, as it creates an unsafe and uncomfortable environment for those around him. These interactions were inappropriate and demonstrated a complete lack of boundaries inside and outside his office.

## **Sexual Behavior**

During our investigation, (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR), (IS) Deborah Perkins, and IS #4 reported observing BICKLE in a state of undress, with an erection. Each encounter appeared to be deliberate and targeted towards the girls.

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<sup>22</sup> Hereafter referred to as GREAVES

<sup>23</sup> Hereafter referred to as LAGUARDIA

<sup>24</sup> Hereafter referred to as SORGE

<sup>25</sup> Hereafter referred to as LIM

<sup>26</sup> Hereafter referred to as TAYLOR

IW #12 questioned BICKLE about when BICKLE provided (IS) Deborah Perkins with a hotel room. After paying for the room, he and (IS) Deborah Perkins went inside. BICKLE told IW #12 that he was sweaty from all the running around and decided to shower in the same room as (IS) Deborah Perkins was in. IW #12 advised he pressed BICKLE, stating, “*You walked out of the shower naked with a full erection and exposed yourself to her.*” According to IW #12, BICKLE said, “*It was immoral, it was immoral, it was immoral.*” BICKLE also said, “*A man of God will not be humiliated if he humbles himself.*” IW #12 advised that he asked BICKLE, “*So you got dressed and left the room.*” According to IW #12, BICKLE stated, “*No, I stayed there for maybe another 90 minutes.*”

Bickle’s sexual behavior with both (IS) Deborah Perkins and (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) escalated into sexual assault and deviate sexual intercourse, as defined by current Missouri statute 566.010, Chapter 566, and Chapter 568. These assaults were not isolated incidents but occurred across several states, indicating a pattern of predatory behavior. The impact of his actions left lasting emotional and psychological scars on both victims, further compounded by the manipulation and control he exerted over them. The legal definitions of these crimes under Missouri law underscore the severity and criminal nature of his conduct, highlighting the urgent need for justice and support for the survivors.

## **Prophetic Manipulation**

Before presenting examples of how BICKLE used “prophetic words” to manipulate his victims, we must first explore how spiritual authority functions within evangelical institutions, and the significance of prophetic ministry in charismatic evangelical spaces like IHOPKC, specifically.<sup>27</sup> A core tenet of evangelical theology is *biblicism*—that is, a high regard for and obedience to the Bible as the ultimate authority in all areas of Christian faith and practice.<sup>28</sup> This emphasis on the authority of Scripture derives from the Reformation ideal of *sola scriptura*, or “Scripture alone.”

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<sup>27</sup> The phrase “prophetic word” is a term of art used to describe a message from God. Evangelicals broadly (including charismatics) use the term “prophet” to describe a kind of vocation. What sets the charismatic understanding of prophecy apart is that within charismatic institutions such as IHOPKC, figures like BICKLE were believed to receive “words of knowledge” or “prophetic words” directly from God. Thus, in effect, figures like BICKLE have the ability to speak for God.

<sup>28</sup> National Association of Evangelicals, “What is an Evangelical?,” <https://tinyurl.com/49x6t97y>. See also Bebbington, David, *The Evangelical Quadrilateral: The Denominational Mosaic of the British Gospel Movement*, Vol. 2, Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2021.

In his 2024 book on power and the ideology of the religious right, Scott M. Coley observes that this ideal was originally conceived as a check on the power of men in positions of authority within the Church: no authority, be it a priest, pastor, teacher, deacon, prophet, or bishop, is above the Bible. Coley notes that, according to the Reformation ideal of *sola scriptura*, the Bible is the only infallible authority on matters of Christian faith and practice. It follows that Scripture, as the only infallible authority, is the *highest* authority. This doesn't mean that there is no authority outside of Scripture—merely that Scripture is sovereign over lesser sources of authority, such as church tradition, ecumenical creeds, doctrinal statements, or ecclesial officials (e.g., pastors or denominational leaders). Thus, in theory, the Reformation ideal of *sola scriptura* subordinates the conventions, institutions, and opinions of men to the Word of God.

In the context of contemporary evangelicalism, however, Coley points out that appeals to biblical authority often serve to *amplify* the social control exercised by ecclesial authorities—namely, those authorities who have the power to dictate what the Bible means: if the Bible's authority cannot be questioned, and certain individuals have the power to dictate how the Bible is to be understood, then those individuals cannot be questioned. As Coley notes, the Reformation ideal of biblical authority is “meant to attenuate ecclesial authority. Yet the opposite is achieved when ecclesial authorities... dictate the meaning of Scripture and then invoke the authority of that same Scripture in order to silence dissent.” In effect, this arrangement permits those in positions of power to “speak on behalf of God.”<sup>29</sup>

It's equally important to observe that, in the context of a *charismatic* evangelical institution like IHOPKC, this dynamic is compounded by an emphasis on “prophetic words.” Within many non-charismatic evangelical institutions, the power of church authorities to speak on God's behalf is restricted to the four corners of the biblical text. But the emphasis on prophetic ministry within institutions like IHOPKC extends this power beyond the Bible, by legitimizing the notion that those with the gift of prophecy receive messages directly from God. As Matthew D. Taylor observes, in apostolic and prophetic circles, people like BICKLE are given an almost unfathomable amount of spiritual authority—far beyond most evangelical pastors. They are seen as oracles of God, speaking with the voice of God through prophecy, and leading the church

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<sup>29</sup> Coley, Scott M. *Ministers of Propaganda: Truth, Power, and the Ideology of the Religious Right*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2024, pp. 47–9.

under divine apostolic directives. That is a straightforward recipe for abuse and cover-up. Indeed, it's baked into BICKLE'S decades-long prophetic narrative that anyone who criticizes or exposes him must be an agent of Satan.<sup>30</sup>

In sermons and other talks on the subject of prophecy, BICKLE assures his audience that legitimate prophecies must accord with Scripture. But this assurance is cold comfort indeed, given BICKLE'S enormous influence over how the Bible is understood by those within his sphere of influence.

BICKLE was a master at using prophetic words to gain his victims' trust. By presenting himself as a spiritual authority with divine insight, he manipulated his victims into believing that his actions were guided by a higher power. *"Everyone around BICKLE wanted to please him and for BICKLE to think they were radical and Godly,"* said IS #11. This tactic created a sense of dependency and reverence, making it difficult for the victims to question his intentions or resist his control.

BICKLE has been accused of engaging in egregious spiritual, emotional, and sexual abuse over decades. He allegedly groomed and fostered inappropriate relationships with women, using the concept of an "apostolic chariot-vision calling" to create an intoxicating partner narrative.

BICKLE reportedly shared prophetic words with (IS) Deborah Perkins, claiming that the Lord had shown him that Diane (BICKLE'S wife) was going to die, and she would be in the chariot with him.

BICKLE told (IS) Tammy Woods that Diane would die, and he would marry her, and she would be ■■■ mom.

During an interview with (IS) Terry Hartley (MINOR), she advised that in October of 1983, *"Mike (BICKLE) explicitly told me of a prophecy regarding the death of his wife, Diane. He believed Diane's death would happen in an earthquake in St. Louis, and the implication of*

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<sup>30</sup> Taylor, Matthew D. 2023. *Important Context for the Mike BICKLE/IHOP-KC Sexual Accusations*. October 29. <https://matthewdtaylor.substack.com/p/important-context-for-the-mike-BICKLEihop>.



*sharing the prophecy with me was that her death would open up a path forward for him and I to pursue a romantic relationship together.”*

Another example of BICKLE’S use of prophetic manipulation, though previously mentioned in this report, is when he would single out women within the church and refer to them as “Esther.” This term, drawn from a respected biblical figure, appears to be part of his grooming tactics.

According to IW #14, BICKLE would also use other people to help with his prophetic manipulation, such as charismatic minister Paul Cain, and feeding him (Cain) information about certain women that BICKLE was pursuing. By presenting himself as a spiritual authority with divine insight, he manipulated his victims into believing that a higher power guided his actions. This method allowed BICKLE to exploit his victims' deepest fears and hopes, ensuring their compliance through a combination of fear, guilt, and a perceived sense of spiritual obligation.

BICKLE’S ability to exert power and control was multifaceted. He used his authoritative position to create an environment where questioning his actions was seen as questioning divine will. This manipulation extended to isolating victims from their support networks, making them more reliant on him. This manipulative behavior was shown when BICKLE expressed remorse but then placed blame on (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR) after their encounter. In doing this, BICKLE was attempting to shift responsibility and create confusion. This emotional manipulation can make the victim feel guilty and complicit in the abuse, further entrenching their sense of powerlessness.

BICKLE’S actions in having (IS) Deborah Perkins pray Psalm 51 (see below) after sexual encounters was another layer of his manipulation. By invoking a prayer of repentance, he further distorted her understanding of the situation, making her feel complicit in the abuse. Similar to (IS) Tammy Woods (MINOR), this tactic not only reinforced his control but also exploited her faith, creating a false sense of shared guilt.

### ***Psalm 51 New International Version***

*<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my*

*sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. <sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. <sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar. ”<sup>31</sup>*

BICKLE’S manipulation of (IS) Deborah Perkins took on a deeply disturbing and manipulative tone. By claiming that the Lord had told him his wife Diane was going to die and that they would be together, he exploited her faith and trust in him. This tactic is particularly insidious, as it uses religious beliefs to justify and normalize his predatory behavior. BICKLE’S vivid descriptions of their future life together, including living in a house by the lake and being "in the chariot" with him, were designed to create a sense of inevitability and destiny. This manipulation further isolated (IS) Deborah Perkins, making her feel complicit in his plans and deepening her dependency on him.

BICKLE’S manipulation extended to using religious scriptures to justify his actions, further exploiting (IS) Deborah Perkins' faith and trust. During the Friday night prayer meetings, he would tell her that he felt the presence of the Lord and that his wife Diane was going to die. This tactic not only manipulated her emotions but also created a false sense of divine approval for his

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<sup>31</sup> See Psalm 51

actions. By invoking religious authority, BICKLE deepened his control over (IS) Deborah Perkins, making it even harder for her to question his behavior or seek help.

On December 6, 2023, LAGUARDIA met with the Ministry Outreach team and an attorney who guided them through a 50-page document that the Executive Leadership Team (ELT)<sup>32</sup> had received from the Advocate Group (AG).<sup>33</sup> During the meeting, IW #206 mentioned that LAGUARDIA had urged the group to disregard the allegations against BICKLE. When IW #206 asked LAGUARDIA about the story of BICKLE'S wife dying, LAGUARDIA responded by saying, *“Jesus is going to return soon, Mike and Diane are going to preach boldly, Diane is going to die a martyr, and Mike will have to marry someone else.”*

### **Other Staff at IHOPKC Involving Sexual Misconduct and Cover-Ups**

The investigation into IHOPKC has indeed uncovered troubling patterns. Beyond the allegations against BICKLE, we uncovered numerous instances of sexual abuse and misconduct perpetrated by individuals associated with IHOPKC. It is crucial to emphasize that these instances are not directly related to BICKLE. These findings highlight a broader issue within the organization that requires immediate attention and action. Due to the extensive nature of the report and the time constraints, we will provide a summary of the various stories and the responses from IHOPKC leadership. This summary aims to shed light on the systemic issues and the steps taken by the leadership to address them.

Throughout the investigation, we identified sixteen (16) Accused Staff Members (ASM) implicated in sexual misconduct claims. Many of the Interviewed Survivors (IS) who shared their stories have chosen not to include their experiences in the report due to fear of retribution from the abusers and/or IHOPKC. We have been permitted to share nine (9) of these stories.

#### **ASM #1**

ASM #1 allegedly sexually assaulted and raped a 14-year-old female in the 1980s. It should be noted that this was before the time ASM #1 worked within IHOPKC. We have made multiple

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<sup>32</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym ELT

<sup>33</sup> Hereafter, we utilize the acronym AG

attempts to contact ASM #1 via email and phone and have been unable to elicit any response from him.

In 2012, ASM #1 applied for an internship at IHOPKC. The application asked if there had been any previous allegations of physical or sexual abuse, and he answered that while he was an intern in his youth ministry at a different congregation, he moved outside of his marriage with a 16-year-old girl and stated that it went no further than inappropriate touch.

On or about March 3, 2018, the ELT sent an email to the “Known Survivor” of the sexual assault by ASM #1 (included below). Such sensitive matters demand a framework of established guidelines, and the expertise of professionals trained to handle the complexities involved, ensuring that the victims' welfare remains the top priority. The absence of proper protocols and professional involvement in addressing these issues has further exacerbated the trauma experienced by the survivors and undermined the credibility of the investigation.

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

First, we want to thank you for courage to come forth and shine light on the horror of abuse and the neglect of the church to face the current problem and to be transparent about its failures.

Second, we want to say that we are saddened and pained by not only the abuse you experienced but by the lack of a truly righteous and healing process within your church family when you first came forward. We do not wish our interaction with you to be another of those horrendous experiences.

As [REDACTED] current employer, it is our desire is to walk out a righteous process with [REDACTED] to determine if he should continue in ministry in any form on our staff. [REDACTED] has been on our staff for 5 years working with a short-term training program for 50-year-olds and older. The recent reports are shocking and appalling, and we are deeply saddened by [REDACTED] abuse and the pain you have experienced. When [REDACTED] applied to the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, he was forthright with the abuse that took place and has referred us to a psychologist that walked him through an 18-month treatment to determine if he was a potential harm to people and if he was fit for ministry. [REDACTED] and his references have upheld that abuse to a minor did occur but deny many of the statements made by you pertaining to the nature and extent of the abuse.

Our intent is not to put you, the victim, on trial in any way. We recognize abuse of a minor by a person in a position of authority took place and that the follow-up to that abuse was a horrendous neglect of responsibility and lacked the necessary care for the victim. Our intent is to honestly and lovingly examine whether [REDACTED] and his references were forthright in their claim that there were nine instances of kissing with some of those instances having inappropriate touch to the breast. They have denied that there was any sexual contact in any form beyond that and that the instances occurred when you were 16 and not 14. Part of the process with the psychologist was to have [REDACTED] fully own his part to the full degree of what he did. A polygraph test was part of the process.

Again, our intent is to not put you on trial in any way but to determine if [REDACTED] was truly forthright in his version of the events when he applied. [REDACTED] you are a sister in the faith and a fellow minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to convey our utmost desire to honor you by going through a thorough evaluation of [REDACTED] and his honesty with regard to the past and his fitness for ministry in the future. We have no desire to defend [REDACTED] in any way but only seek to take your statements in the articles and the video with the utmost seriousness.

Thus, our questions relate to the details of the abusive events. We are not asking these to go public in any way or to make any defense for [REDACTED]. What he has admitted to is deplorable in

and of itself. We only want to take our sister in the faith and fellow minister of the gospel's claims seriously and evaluate [REDACTED] future fitness for ministry appropriately.

- Can you confirm that [REDACTED] did indeed engage with you in sexual activity beyond kissing with a few instances of inappropriate touching to the breast?
- Is there someone who was in a position of authority who knew the extent of your original claims?

We realize that this correspondence from our ministry cannot be done in a way that honors you and all involved, having no history with you. The horrendous events 30 years ago and the neglect of righteous and loving process for you continues to have devastating consequences. It is our hope that we honor your intention to shine the light on this issue and call the church back to its own standard of righteousness and love, especially for women and children who have suffered abuse.

Thank you for receiving this email.

Sincerely,

Dale Anderson  
Tracey Bickle  
Jono Hall  
Allen Hood  
Lenny LaGuardia

After the email was delivered to the “Known Survivor,” she advised the ELT that they were not qualified to conduct an investigation and to bring in a third-party investigator. The ELT then decided to sign a contract with GRACE for an independent third-party investigation.

Multiple IWs have reported their frustrations when attempting to contact the ELT members at IHOPKC regarding this case. IW #40 and IW #56 both stated that they had tried to communicate with GREAVES and SLIKER, advocating for ASM #1’s not to be restored to regular staff following the allegations made against him. They were encouraged to follow the Matthew 18 process with ASM #1, provided they believed he had taken full responsibility for his actions. Additionally, IW #2 mentioned that despite the push for accountability, ASM #1 continued to hold a position at IHOPU, actively recruiting students. These reports indicate a disconnect between the leadership's stated commitment to accountability and the actual outcomes observed by the IW's. Moreover, these experiences have led to growing concerns among the IWs about the transparency and effectiveness of the processes in place to handle such serious matters.

According to IW #92, they and their spouse brought protest to SLIKER about ASM #1 being retained on staff and put in a leadership position over minors in the Spring of 2022. SLIKER responded that IHOPU “will never have a policy against having people who have a history of sexual offense in their background.” He refused the protest and told us we were wrong in our concern over ASM #1. IW #92 requested a copy of the IHOPKC policy on hiring sexual offenders from TAYLOR, the director of HR at the time. He refused to provide this, and they were referred to SLIKER, who then insisted, in a three-hour meeting, that they were judgmental and wrong and that it was biblically an absolute that ASM #1 remain on IHOPKC staff.

In a Press Release dated April 19, 2019, titled, “International House of Prayer of Kansas City Concludes Misconduct Investigation, IHOPKC stated:”

*After one full year, all investigations regarding a 2018 sexual misconduct allegation made against an International House of Prayer of Kansas City IHOPKC staff member have been completed. “Both the victim and the accused member of this investigation have found resolution,” says a senior IHOPKC official.*

*During the course of the discovery, the victim realized that the accused did make a genuine apology and she has genuinely forgiven him,” her Sacramento lawyer, Joseph George said on Friday, December 14, 2018 in a telephone interview with the Modesto Bee.*

*In 2018, charges were made against an IHOPKC staff member during his tenure at a ministry unrelated to IHOPKC in another state over 30 years ago. The accused was placed on a leave of absence while the IHOPKC Executive Leadership Team spent considerable time in discovery and fact-finding with regards to the victim’s accusations. When the injured party escalated the nature of the original claim and requested an expansion to the internal process, IHOPKC agreed to bring an outside organization of the victim’s recommendation to ensure a fair and thorough investigation.*

*During the course of both the internal and external investigations, the accused demonstrated genuine remorse and repentance over the clear moral failure committed at that time as well as complete cooperation with the litigation. The injured realized that the accuser made a genuine apology and has genuinely forgiven him.*

*“The critical conclusion of the report is that no evidence of further incidents was discovered by the independent firm, nor has there been any evidence of further wrongdoing over the last 30+ years including time spent at IHOPKC,” says that senior IHOPKC official. IHOPKC diligently seeks to be safe, accountable, transparent and integrous organization, fully alert and cooperatively aware to abuses and abusers, of any kind. We desire to be a safe, trustworthy organization that deeply embodies the values and actions of Jesus for justice, mercy, and redemption. We are committed to both the prevention of oppression and to justice for those*



*oppressed. Additionally, we challenge abusers toward full repentance with the hope of eventual restoration.”*

*In response to the review conducted by the external agency, with further recommendations concerning IHOPKC's Sexual Harassment prevention and protection policies, IHOPKC leadership instituted several additional processes to ensure that IHOPKC is a safe place to work, including but not limited to an audit of the Ministry Staff Application Screening Process, training for those that review and interview applicants, Restoration Guidelines for Victims of Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Harassment Training for all IHOPKC staff.<sup>34</sup>*

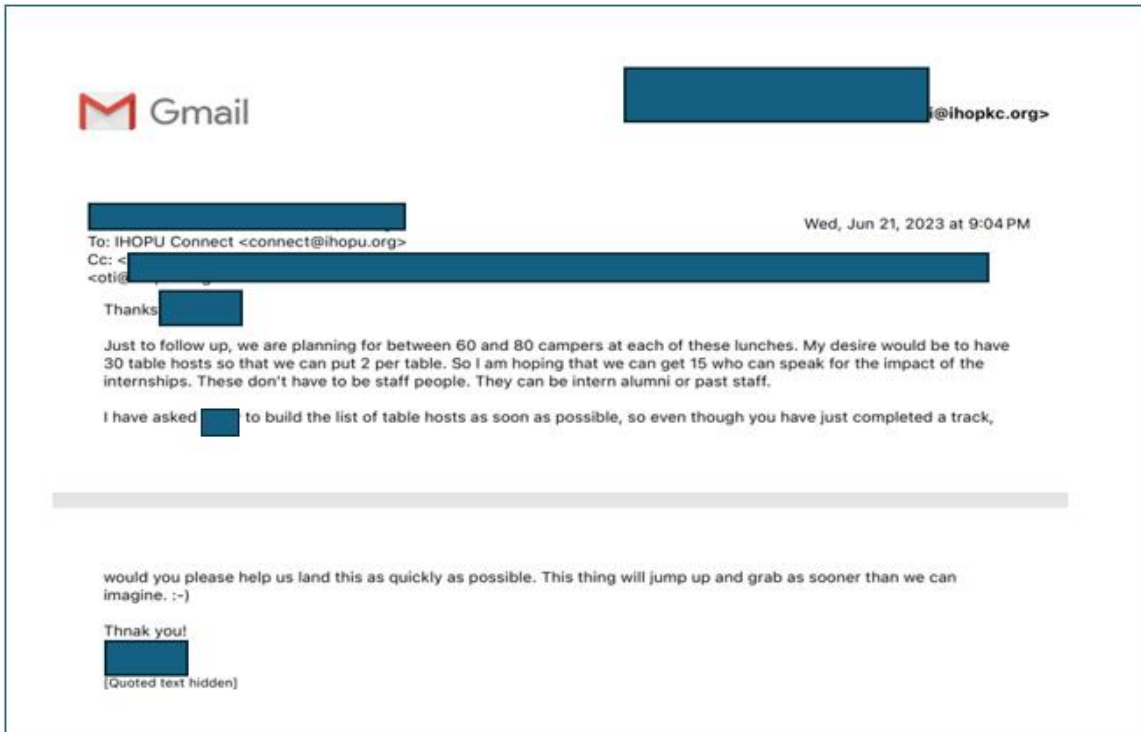
The decision by IHOPKC not to publicly release the GRACE report reveals a significant disregard for transparency and the congregation's well-being. By withholding the report, the leadership has demonstrated a lack of commitment to accountability and potentially compromised the trust and safety of church members. This perceived inaction has fostered a sense of mistrust and frustration within the community, highlighting the urgent need for more robust and transparent measures to ensure accountability and safety.

Despite the controversy, the board ultimately decided to permit ASM #1 back on staff at IHOPKC. This decision was made while knowing the facts in the case against ASM #1 and acknowledging the recommendations in the GRACE report, which stated, “Should he ever be permitted to return to IHOP, he must never be allowed on the property when minors are present. In addition, he must never be allowed at, or granted participation in, any off-campus IHOP activities in which minors are present.”

On June 21, 2023, ASM #1 emailed the IHOPU Connect group about planning a lunch for campers.

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<sup>34</sup> See attached Press Release from IHOPKC dated April 19, 2019, titled, “International House of Prayer of Kansas City Concludes Misconduct Investigation”



## ASM #2

In 2010, ASM #2 allegedly sexually assaulted and raped a 16-year-old male, IS #24. We have attempted to contact ASM #2, and ASM #2 referred us to his attorney. We did receive an email response that stated he was willing to cooperate with the third-party investigation but, because of pending legal action, was forbidden to be interviewed. *(Note that on October 17, 2024, the Jackson County, Missouri prosecutor decided not to file charges against ASM #2).*

According to IW #2, ASM #2 was involved in youth leadership at IHOPKC and led a small group of teen boys. IW #4 stated that he would often take the boys on outings to places like the YWCA gym in Overland Park, KS. While at the gym, the boys would be encouraged to disrobe and take showers. IS #25 stated that ASM #2 would find ways to be alone with the boys and ask personal questions about their sexuality.

IW #4 advised he contacted SLIKER about the allegations occurring during the youth outings, and that SLIKER stated, “he didn’t think it was a big deal.” ASM #2 was allowed to continue in the ministry. IW #2 noted that the situation was reported to SLIKER and LAGUARDIA, and nothing was done. IW #50 went to LAGUARDIA stating that ASM #2 needed to be removed from working around kids, and he was told, “No *one could be banned.*” IW #27, while working in the children’s department, was never notified of the actions being taken by the ELT during the investigation of ASM #2 and what occurred during the youth outings. IW #8 stated that ASM #2, while in the prayer room, pulled a boy, who was unable to be identified as part of this investigation, into a side room to talk to him about masturbation, his need to confess, and that he wanted to find time to shower with him to wash away his sins.

IW #2 shared IS #24’s story of abuse with HACKETT, an IHOPKC board member, 11 days before IS #24’s story went public on Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

IW #2 stated that immediately after telling HACKETT, he contacted TAYLOR, the Executive Director of IHOPKC, and informed him of IS #24’s allegation of being sexually abused by an IHOPKC staff member as a minor.

On Friday, August 2, 2024, IHOPKC released a statement to the Kansas City Star,<sup>35</sup> claiming this was the FIRST TIME they had learned of these allegations.

*“We are heartbroken by these allegations, which we have learned of for the first time as a result of your inquiries. All efforts are being extended to uncover the details. We are reaching out to the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families to offer our full support. This includes supporting the involvement of law enforcement. We have also opened an internal review to understand how the leadership at the time handled allegations, identify lapses, and create a summary report with recommendations to ensure that training and processes are in place going forward so that this cannot happen again period.”*

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<sup>35</sup> [www.kansascity.com/news/local/article290857694.html](http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article290857694.html) August 11, 2024 “Former IHOPKC teens allege sexual misconduct by youth group leader. Was it a cover-up? By Judy Thomas.

### **ASM #3**

IW #51 observed ASM #3 having an inappropriate relationship with another intern. This was reported to GREAVES, and he stated that he was handling the situation. IW #173 said that ASM #3 would always go to the interns' apartments and give them gifts and food. IW #173 stated that ASM #3 brought a massage table to provide massages to the interns.

Multiple girls lived in a basement apartment owned by ASM #3 and his wife. The bedroom door locks were removed to allow free access for ASM #3. (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur (18-year-old), an intern at IHOPKC, was physically and sexually assaulted by ASM #3 in 2010-2011. During this period, she had been punched and thrown to the ground and sexually assaulted on multiple occasions. (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur contacted Dave and Tracey SLIKER to assist her. SLIKER wanted to meet (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur in person, so she asked IW #109 to attend the meeting. IW #109 stated, *“What I came to realize very quickly was this meeting was about extreme grooming, repeated sexual assault disguised as “pastoring” and “one-on-one counseling” she was experiencing at the hands of her landlord.”* The focus of the meeting according to IW #109 was *“keeping her quiet and the only way to move forward was to forgive, forget everything and not to ask any more questions.”* SLIKER told (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur, *“This is all a considerable misinterpretation.”*

During a second meeting, held at SLIKER’S home, (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur was told not to bring IW #109 and to attend alone. She was surprised that the meeting was with ASM #3 and SLIKER. She was told that ASM #3 had repented, and she was warned not to tell anyone, including her parents, of what had happened. SLIKER told her, *“Jesus doesn’t go spreading all of our sins, so we shouldn’t share the sins of others.”* SLIKER also warned (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur not to report the incidents to the police. (IS) Olivia Bauman-Pousseur was aware of a meeting with SLIKER, GREAVES, and BICKLE but never heard the outcome of the meeting. IW #109 attempted to reach out to GREAVES several times but never received a reply.

### **ASM #5**

In 2015, IS #8, after being sexually assaulted by ASM #5 at IHOPKC, sought help from trusted leadership figures. Instead of receiving support, she was told that the term "assault" was too

strong and was discouraged from going to the police or disclosing the incident to anyone. IW #16 said, *“You are holy if you don’t talk. If you talk, you are toxic.”* This statement was made many times throughout the investigation by other victims. IW #191 stated there was a “code of silence” at IHOPKC.

### **ASM #6**

IS #22 advised they were sexually assaulted by ASM #6 and then told not to discuss it with anyone from IHOPKC. This is a clear failure of the organization's duty to protect and support its members. Forcing IS #22 to attend the "Living Waters" program instead of addressing the assault only adds to the trauma and silences the victim.

### **ASM #7**

IS #23, a minor, joined IHOPKC as an intern. Unfortunately, there were no specific protections in place for minors, and they were treated as adults, encouraged to fast and spend long hours in the prayer room. Shortly after his arrival, IS #23 was targeted and groomed by ASM #7, a male leader who exploited the prophetic to lure interns into sexual abuse.

### **ASM #9**

(IS) Gracia was sexually assaulted and raped by ASM #9, a staff member of the Night Watch program. She reported what had happened to her supervisor, Donna Edwards, and they met with GREAVES, the director of the Night Watch program. (IS) Gracia was told that the word “rape” was too strong of a word to use for what happened. She attended multiple meetings with different people who questioned her about the incident, which only crushed her spirit. Church officials asked her to retract her story and apologize to the offender formally. They also told her that she should not go to the police. (IS) Gracia stated that “How the church handled the situation was far more traumatic than the rape itself.” This incident highlights the critical need for organizations to have proper safeguarding measures and to take allegations seriously while providing a safe and supportive environment for those who come forward.

## **ASM #10**

ASM #10, a former IHOPU Music School leader and IHOPKC staff member, led a group of students to "Tangibly comfort one another, using physical touch to show the heart of Jesus," according to IW #199. In doing so, according to IW #199, *"A single girl would sit with her head in ASM #10's lap, as he would stroke her hair, while ASM #10's wife was in another room watching their children."* According to IW #199, questioning this behavior was met with the accusation that any impure thoughts indicated the students weren't as redeemed as ASM #10. IW #199 further stated, *"He could touch the women in the group and be closest friends with the married women, as he was displaying Jesus to them. Some of the couples I remain in contact with have been so damaged by this chapter that they have had to seek therapy and healing."*

## **ASM #11**

IW #48 stated that his daughter was being stalked and harassed by ASM #11. He reported the abuse to two ELT members, HACKETT and BENNETT, who reported the incident to BICKLE. According to IW #48, BICKLE, who was familiar with the staff member, stated that he backed him and that no other action was needed.

## **Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Concerns**

The investigation has revealed that certain members of the ELT at IHOPKC were more focused on suppressing and minimizing reports of sexual abuse, misconduct, and rape rather than supporting the victims or staff who reported these incidents.

The investigation revealed troubling practices within IHOPKC involving SLIKER, a member of the IHOPKC leadership team and then president of International House of Prayer University. We have made multiple attempts to contact SLIKER by email. He did respond initially, but all correspondence stopped.

IW #77 reported to us that when they questioned SLIKER as to why an alleged offender was still on staff, SLIKER commented, *"We never take a guy out of his game when he's being restored."*

This attitude reflects a concern for prioritizing the offender's restoration over the victim's well-being.

It's incredibly disheartening to hear that multiple identified survivors have reported such experiences. When SLIKER oversaw Matthew 18 meetings, instead of providing support, he interrogated the victims in front of the alleged offender. This approach not only failed to support the victims but also added to their trauma. Forcing victims into agreeing not to talk with anyone within IHOPKC further silenced them and prevented them from seeking the help and support they often needed.

IS #26 stated that while talking with SLIKER, BICKLE approached her, touched her face, played with her hair, and then walked away. According to IS #26, SLIKER stood by, observing her discomfort, and did nothing to intervene. This behavior was normalized within the leadership, as no one stepped in to stop it, further perpetuating a culture of acceptance of such actions.

The investigation has revealed troubling practices within IHOPKC involving GREAVES, a member of the ELT and then Vice President of the Global Prayer Room. We have made multiple attempts to contact GREAVES, but we have been unable to elicit any response from him.

To silence victims, GREAVES would hold meetings where victims were interrogated and, in many instances, forced to apologize to the alleged offenders. Victims were often blamed for what happened to them, causing further trauma.

In cases of sexual abuse, victims were advised that the investigation would be handled in-house, and that law enforcement should not be involved. This approach not only silenced victims but also allowed perpetrators to continue their abusive behavior without fear of legal consequences.

IW #2 confronted GREAVES in January 2024 and stated, *"If you [Stuart] told Gracia to go the police because she claimed she was raped and only law enforcement / the legal system are equipped to investigate that allegation, then why did you [Stuart] require Gracia to meet with her alleged rapist several times and hear his side of the story?"*

IW #110 reported that GREAVES initially contacted her with work-related messages, but the nature of his texts soon became more personal. At one point, he sent her a picture of himself from his hotel room in his pilot's uniform, raising suspicions about his intentions.

The investigation has revealed troubling practices within IHOPKC involving LAGUARDIA. LAGUARDIA was a member of the ELT, Vice President of Ministries, Executive Director of IHOPKC's Children's Equipping Center, and local chaplain for the Kansas City and Grandview Police Departments. We have made multiple attempts to contact LAGUARDIA via email and in person at his residence. Unfortunately, we have been unable to elicit any response from him.

In 2023, (IS) Gracia confronted GREAVES in a recorded conversation at IHOPKC'S Forerunner Church regarding his mishandling of her report of being sexually assaulted. GREAVES denied any cover-up of the assault. LAGUARDIA was also present during this confrontation. According to (IS) Gracia, LAGUARDIA warned her, saying, "If you don't delete that, I'm going to give your name to somebody, and they're going to contact you. It will cause trouble if she's recording to trap somebody. It's not going to be helpful for you." After the confrontation, (IS) Gracia felt deeply distressed and unsupported, as her attempt to seek justice was met with threats and denial.

After witnessing concerning interactions between a child and other young children (all minors), IW #25 contacted LAGUARDIA. According to IW #25, LAGUARDIA acknowledged observing the same behavior and assured IW #25 that appropriate actions would be taken. However, no measures were implemented, and the incident remained unreported.

IW #20, IW #10, IW #50, IW #130, and IW #2 all shared stories of seeking assistance from LAGUARDIA with help on different disclosures of sexual abuse victims in which they were told that IHOPKC would be handling the situation, and they should not discuss the occurrences with anyone.

## **Face-to-Face with the Abusers**

The investigation revealed that many victims were subjected to "Matthew 18 meetings," where they were pressured into face-to-face confrontations with their abusers to determine who was



lying. These meetings not only compounded the emotional distress of the victims but also undermined the integrity of the investigation process. Many victims felt intimidated and coerced, which led to further trauma and a sense of injustice. As a result, the credibility of the testimonies collected during these meetings was compromised.

BICKLE'S "Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments,"<sup>36</sup> released in 2008, outlined stringent principles for the International House of Prayer Kansas City (IHOPKC). A central tenet of these commitments was to handle issues internally, avoiding involvement from law enforcement or external entities. This internal approach was deemed essential for the organization's continued operation and longevity, a practice it upheld for many years. By fostering a culture of self-regulation, IHOPKC aimed to ensure a unified community, minimize public scrutiny, and maintain the integrity of its spiritual mission. The Purity Covenant not only guided personal behavior but also reinforced the organization's commitment to resolving conflicts and maintaining discipline from within its own ranks.

Interns entering the program were compelled to disclose sexual sins or experiences, often involving childhood victimization. These disclosures were sometimes used manipulatively, adhering to the principles set by BICKLE in IHOPKC's Forerunner Christian Fellowship's Purity Covenant (March 2008). "*Commitment #4: I commit to hold any confession of my friend's failure in **strict confidentiality**. If I do speak it to another then I commit to tell it to the one who confessed their sin to me. The one who breaks confidence should confess also to the one to whom he broke the confidence.*" According to this commitment, any confession of a friend's failure was to be held in **strict confidentiality**, with breaches requiring confession to the one whose confidence was broken.

IW #180 stated that there would be a "*mass deliverance process*" where they were made to disclose any sexual history that they may have had.

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<sup>36</sup> See attached Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments," released in 2008

In 2022, IW #75 reported that the IHOPKC counseling department received a directive from BICKLE via GREAVES, mandating that any intern with "sexual struggles" be reported directly to BICKLE. (We have not been able to locate this document.)

IS #13 had confidentially contacted her leaders seeking help about a situation with a ASM #17 who was sexually harassing her. She was told that she wasn't following the biblical process, Matthew 18, correctly. No action was ever taken by the ELT against the staff member. IS #13 reached out to SLIKER, who reportedly told her to *"Pull your big girl panties up; you signed up for this."*

It's deeply troubling when someone reaches out for help and is met with such dismissive and inappropriate responses. IS #13's experience highlights the importance of supportive and empathetic leadership, especially in sensitive situations. The lack of action from the ELT and the response from SLIKER are both concerning and unacceptable.

What we have consistently observed within IHOPKC is that often, when someone reaches out for help, they would be forced to say confessions and be silenced. Sadly, according to survivors, their *"dirty laundry"* was shared with the leadership, and nothing was done to rectify the situation with the alleged offenders. This was shown during our interview with IW #199, who stated, *"The focus on purity and our sexuality in group settings was unsettling."* IW #199 further advised, *"Forced confessions were common, as we were often coerced with music and prayer in 'Pure Heart' (a program of IHOPKC) weekends, where we were to confess to strangers all of our sexual sins."*

IS #31 reported that after disclosing a sexual assault, she was told her story was unbelievable and was discouraged from going to the police. Instead, she was coerced into a meeting with her accuser, further traumatizing her and undermining her credibility.

This practice reflects a deeply flawed approach to handling allegations of abuse, prioritizing the organization's reputation over the well-being of the victims. The use of "Matthew 18 meetings" not only silenced victims but also perpetuated a culture of fear and intimidation. Victims were made to feel as though their experiences were invalid, and the burden of proof was unfairly placed on them.

Multiple victims reported that after the Matthew 18 meetings, they were required to attend IHOP's Living Waters Program, which was run by Tracey BICKLE (BICKLE'S sister). This program was intended to help individuals with sexual issues. However, the mandatory nature of this program and its connection to the leadership raised concerns about its effectiveness and the true intentions behind it. Many of the victims we interviewed felt that the program was another way to control and silence them rather than providing genuine support and healing.

Another commitment from "Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments" included specific guidelines that held victims to certain standards when they disclosed incidents of sexual misconduct. The emphasis on purity and accountability, specifically commitments E through H, while intended to promote moral integrity, also raised concerns about the potential for victim-blaming and the pressure on survivors to conform to stringent behavioral expectations.

*FORERUNNER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (MARCH 2008) – BICKLE*

*Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments (III E-H)*

*E. Commitment #5:* If I “repeatedly” stumble in immorality, I will show the fruit of repentance by going with my friend to confess to the leadership and then accept the boundaries they give me.

*F. Commitment #6:* I commit to *share with the leadership* if my friend “repeatedly” stumbles in immorality. I will first tell my friend **before** sharing with a leader to convince him to go with me. *If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. If he will not hear, take with you one or two more...If he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. (Mt. 18:15-17)*

*G. Commitment #7:* For leaders: I commit to follow the process of bringing those who ‘continue’ in immorality to the appropriate level of “discipline” instead of offering them “unsanctified mercy”. *Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all... (1 Tim 5:20, NAS) Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor. 5:5)*

*H. We will not bring public shame to anyone who repents. We hope to never expose one's sin publicly. There are many levels of discipline that do not require personal exposure. ***Above all things have fervent love...for love will cover a multitude of sins. (1 Pet. 4:8) He who covers a transgression seeks love... (Prov. 17:9)*** <sup>37</sup>*

## **Reporting – Staff**

The investigation has revealed that staff members who reported sexual abuse victims to their supervisors often faced retaliation. Instead of being supported, these whistleblowers were frequently disciplined by being transferred to different positions or having their work hours reduced, despite the assurances in the IHOPKC Whistleblower Policy.<sup>38</sup> Adopted on December 1, 2008.

IHOPKC Whistleblower Policy Item #3: “No Retaliation”

“No Retaliation” states, “No board member, officer, employee or volunteer who in good faith reports a Violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. The Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within IHOPKC prior to seeking resolution outside the IHOPKC.”

This punitive response that staff members received, despite the policy set in place, discouraged staff from coming forward. Alarming, the policy also pushed to keep complaints inside the organization, with all reported complaints and allegations going directly to the compliance officer (Eric Opprieht) and the Executive Director (Daniel Lim).

IHOPKC Whistleblower Policy Item #5: “Compliance Officer”

“IHOPKC's compliance officer is responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning violations and, at his discretion, shall advise the Executive

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<sup>37</sup> See attached Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments," released in 2008

<sup>38</sup> See attached Whistleblower Policy, dated December 1, 2008

Director and/or the audit committee. The Compliance Officer has direct access to the audit committee of the board of directors and is required to report to the audit committee at least annually on compliance activity.”

IW #161, a staff worship leader on the Night Watch, received a report from one of her singers that another staff member had sexually assaulted the singer. GREAVES, the director of Night Watch, was informed. The victim was taken for a sexual assault/rape exam; later, she was forced to tell her story multiple times to different people. According to IW #161, the victim held onto the claim of rape until she was worn out and persuaded to reconsider and drop the charges. According to IW #161, the alleged offender was promoted within IHOPKC and given a larger stipend to continue in the ministry.

## **Reporting – Victims**

The investigation has revealed that victims were often forced to disclose their personal sexual history or history of being sexually abused as a child. In many instances, these deeply personal stories were then used in prophetic words spoken by leaders or were used publicly to humiliate victims in front of other students and staff. The use of victims' personal histories in such a manner is a gross violation of trust and further exemplifies the toxic environment fostered by IHOPKC's leadership.

SLIKER, the president of IHOPU, addressed IHOPU on October 27th, 2024, informing the students about the allegations against BICKLE. He urged the students to “*not spiritualize*” the situation and stated, “*Suddenly, it's not safe for a woman, or anyone, to come forward with a point of pain or something they want to work through. So, we're not going with the “black horse” narrative. I'm urging you to do the same.*”

IW #130 stated that the phrase, “*You do not speak against the Lord's anointed,*” was often used to silence those who tried to report abuse, creating an environment where victims felt powerless and unsupported. This systemic failure within the leadership has had a profound impact on the victims and the overall integrity of the organization.

IS #8's experience is deeply distressing. At age 18, they advised they were sexually assaulted by ASM # 5. When they reported the assault to two staff members, they were told not to talk about it and was forced to leave the prayer room group. They were made to attend a Matthew 18 meeting with the offender and was told to use the word "violate" instead of "sexual abuse." IS #8 said that "I went to people I thought I could trust, only to be met with dismissal and further harm."

The church's failure to address the issue appropriately sends a harmful message to both victims and perpetrators. For victims, it discourages them from coming forward, knowing they might face further victimization rather than support. For perpetrators, it implies that their actions will be met with protection rather than accountability.

IS #15 stated that they left IHOPKC hurt and confused, advising, "Mike BICKLE, Stuart GREAVES, and Dave SLIKER had an utter disregard for anyone's wellbeing."

IS #21 advised they were sexually assaulted as an intern and was referred to the IHOP's in-house counseling service, Living Waters, run by Tracey BICKLE. IS #21 stated they were forced to tell their story about being sexually assaulted. The counselor blamed IS #21, insinuating it was their fault.

IS #12 advised they were experiencing unwanted sexual advances by ASM #8 and reached out to multiple leaders for help, but none was provided. ASM #8 stayed on staff.

## **IHOPKC Child, Youth, and Worker Protection Policy**

The Child, Youth, and Worker Protection Policy<sup>39</sup> was revised in 2018 and circulated as recently as 2022 after the investigation into ASM #1. Page 5, under "Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect," states,

*"To preserve confidentiality, it is important to discuss the incident initially only with any of these four individuals.*

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<sup>39</sup> See attached International House of Prayer Child, Youth, and Worker Protection Policy, page 5

*Department leadership, along with the individual receiving a report or suspecting child abuse, will proceed to give information to the division head Lenny LaGuardia, Vice President of Ministries and Justice.*

*The VP of Ministries will proceed to determine whether there are grounds to support a report being made to the Missouri Children's Division (i.e., reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect). Prior to any reporting to Children's & Family services, the VP will inform, consult, and inform Jono Hall, COO and Eric Opprieht, Compliance Officer."*

Throughout this report, multiple victims have been affected by this policy of only discussing sexual abuse with top leaders. It was then up to leaders to decide if they should contact law enforcement. This approach has often led to delayed or inadequate responses, further perpetuating a culture of silence and enabling ongoing misconduct.

Examining the long-standing culture of systemic sexual misconduct and cover-ups that have thrived since IHOPKC's inception in 1999, it is evident that leadership often took it upon themselves to investigate sexual misconduct claims, interrogate victims, and discourage them from reporting to the police.

Furthermore, the systemic nature of this misconduct cannot be overlooked. Patterns of behavior that shielded perpetrators and minimized victims' experiences were embedded within the organizational structures. In many cases, leadership employed tactics such as victim-blaming, gaslighting, and coercion to suppress allegations. Moreover, the lack of external oversight and accountability allowed these practices to continue unabated.

## Conclusions

Based on the documented statements of victims and witnesses interviewed and the evidence in the form of documents and correspondence with the accused, this investigation concludes that BICKLE has committed spiritual, emotional, and sexual abuse within IHOPKC. BICKLE'S reported abuse was an ongoing course of action and patterned behavior starting as early as the 1970s based on victim accounts. Through the identified IHOPKC programs, BICKLE systematically groomed and developed inappropriate relationships with women in the congregation while using "Matthew 18 meetings" to conceal, minimize, and silence victims of sexual abuse within the church.

In further support of the above, victim accounts show BICKLE'S repeated behavior in using prophetic language to speak to victims, isolating victims from others, purchasing gifts, frequent visits to victims' residences, controlling behavior, public praise and attention, frequent touching of victims' bodies, kissing victims, and creating circumstances where victims would observe him undressed and aroused.

BICKLE'S correspondence on December 12, 2023, acknowledges his "inappropriate behavior" but attempts to minimize it by stating it occurred decades ago and was not the "more intense sexual activities that some are suggesting." Regardless of the intensity, BICKLE'S grooming, sexual solicitation, and abusive misconduct involving seventeen (17) women, some of whom were minors, is evident and should not be downplayed. This behavior has caused significant harm and trauma to the victims, and it is crucial to recognize the severity of his actions. By minimizing his misconduct, BICKLE not only undermines the experiences of the survivors but also perpetuates a culture of silence and impunity. It is essential to hold him accountable and ensure that such behavior is not tolerated.

Furthermore, this report finds a deliberate indifference by BICKLE and the ELT in minimizing reports of sexual abuse, requiring victims to confront their offenders, and discouraging victims from seeking law enforcement assistance. Their actions, or lack thereof, contributed to an environment where victims felt unsupported and vulnerable. By downplaying the severity of the abuse and failing to take appropriate measures, BICKLE and the ELT failed to protect the victims and uphold their duty of care. This indifference not only exacerbated the trauma



experienced by the victims but also allowed the perpetrators to evade accountability and continue their misconduct.

## **Implementation Strategies**

### **1. Create a Clear and Comprehensive Policy**

It is recommended that IHOPKC develop a clear and comprehensive policy on sexual abuse, primarily focused on prevention while providing clear and actionable steps for staff and volunteers to follow should sexual abuse be observed or reported. This policy should be reviewed with all staff and volunteers on an annual basis, and upon joining the staff or volunteers of the organization.

### **2. Background Checks and Screening**

All employees, staff members, and volunteers having contact with children, young people, and vulnerable adults should be subjected to a thorough background check, including the subject's criminal history, child abuse clearances, and a check of the sex offender registry. IHOPKC should continually monitor those in positions of trust through annual screening.

### **3. Training and Education**

IHOPKC should mandate training for ALL staff and volunteers on recognizing the signs of abuse, both sexual and physical, and the reporting procedures should they observe said abuse. IHOPKC should create and monitor a form of tracking all personnel to ensure each has completed the training. This training should be conducted on an annual basis, and upon joining the staff or volunteers of the organization.

### **4. Clear Reporting Procedures**

IHOPKC should create a confidential system where staff and volunteers can report abuse without the fear of retaliation. As mandated by Missouri law, IHOPKC should train staff and volunteers as mandated reporters<sup>40</sup> of abuse. If a report of abuse is made, IHOPKC must notify child protective services (or state equivalent) and/or the local law enforcement agency. This ensures an

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect-missouri/>

independent investigation can occur while reducing the opportunity or speculation of covering up reported abuse.

## **5. Accountability and Transparency**

When a report of abuse involves a staff member or volunteer, IHOPKC should create and follow a policy suspending the accused until the incident is investigated by authorities. IHOPKC should be transparent about past abuse by acknowledging what has occurred, offering apologies, and outlining the actionable steps the organization is taking to rebuild the trust of the staff, volunteers, and community.

## **6. Support for Survivors**

IHOPKC should offer support and counseling services for those impacted by sexual abuse within their congregation. This can be accomplished by creating support groups within the organization that are led by outside professionals who specialize in sexual abuse and mental health services.

## **7. Vulnerable Persons Policy**

IHOPKC should create a policy restricting the ability of staff and volunteers to be alone with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

## **8. External Policy Review**

IHOPKC should use an external organization to assess IHOPKC's policy on sexual abuse prevention, investigation, and reporting. This will ensure that IHOPKC is following industry standards in maintaining the safety of children, young people, and vulnerable adults within their organization.

## **Outside the Scope**

FIREFLY identified two distinct concerns during the investigation that fall outside its primary scope. The main focus of this investigation is on specific allegations of sexually abusive misconduct against BICKLE, as well as the actions of other individuals associated with BICKLE and IHOPKC.

### **1. IHOPKC Financials**

We have received numerous inquiries regarding whether FIREFLY will investigate the alleged financial improprieties at IHOPKC. However, this aspect does not fall within the scope of the current investigation and will not be covered in this report. While financial matters are undoubtedly important, addressing them requires a thorough investigation with its own criteria and objectives.

### **2. Hope City**

We have received reports from several interviewed witnesses about alleged sexually abusive misconduct within this organization. Testimonies from witnesses revealed a consistent pattern of not reporting sexual misconduct incidents and highlighted the absence of clear reporting policies. However, we realize that Hope City was a startup from IHOPKC and is a separate independent organization. Any further investigation would be outside the scope.

# **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike Bickle - [REDACTED]  
Subject: This is my last email on this = sorry it is a bit rambling because I am writing this real fast and I am in-between a day full of meetings,  
Date: October 9, 2023 at 7:58:06 PM CDT  
To: Mike Bickle - [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This is my last email  
I have been in and out of meetings since I left you at 10am today.

I am sorry, I am not clear minded right now and I am exhausted but I am still swirling and hurting

I just wanted to clarify that when I wrote in my last email a some hours ago saying this was "**my most painful day**"

1. I do not mean painful because of her conversation with you - I am okay with you in the conversation - I trust you and your ways
2. I do not even mean because others (including me) would be greatly hurt, *if... blah blah blah*

However, I cannot imagine the relational anguish and confusion it would cause in the multi-level long term sovereign relationship with IHOP and [REDACTED] -

**What is painful** is the thought of **others being told** a certain narrative that is not the narrative I believe that God has and then they will pass it on—that would constitute **the greatest betrayal of my life** from one my dearest friends who I have trusted 100%. It would be a far worse betrayal than what Ernie Gruen did to me in 1990—far more personally painful and relationally destructive. [REDACTED]

I realize that she has not **betrayed** me at this point (so forgive me using such ugly language "as betrayal") but even the chance of her doing this **creates great pain in me** (but not anger at her)—that a most trusted friend did this to me **at the end of my life** after 40 years of being in prayer meetings many hours a day (6 days a week)

I told you about the prophetic dream 2 years ago (?) that I had from Psalm 55:12-14 - I have prayed many times to bind the demonic powers that would energize this painful betrayal.

In my last meeting with Ernie **before** he spoke against me in 1990, he told me that he had a prophetic dream to expose me and that he had it 3 times. (Of course, I had the Michael the archangel [REDACTED] counter in Sept 1984 and Michael showed the rage of Satan striking me through Ernie when "I went to the east"). Thus, without telling that to Ernie, I just urged him to be slow and to **be careful to hear God** before he acted on those 3 dreams because [REDACTED] 100% that it was the rage of Satan breathing on [REDACTED] ind.

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"I went the east" in December 1989 and the next month Ernie attacked me publicly in January 1990 just as Michael the archangel showed me in Sept 1984

In April 2023 the Lord make it 100% clear to me that was **"I again going to the east"** in May 2023 with 5 million praying for Israel and the Black Horse would strike me again with the rage of Satan after May 2023

I am **NOT** saying that Satan's rage is coming through [redacted] talking to you - but the hot fire of his demonic breath will come on the minds of some who will be energized to distort even what they hear from people quoting [redacted] and then Satan will energize them to pass it to multitudes via social media, etc

If this escalates, I am sure many will conclude Satan's rage was coming through [redacted] **But that is NOT my view**

But I would never say anything negative about [redacted] but only words of blessing on her and I would do the same even for those who share and distort her narrative.

Satan's raging accusation **is impossible to control** because he has a supernatural ability to accuse by inflaming distortion and anger in the minds of people, even good people.

I plead with you and [redacted] as two of my most dear long term trusted friends **to ask the Spirit to show you His narrative of my life and what He sees and says about me and ask Him to give you peace or whatever - I am sure He will**

If me, you, or [redacted] miss Him on this it would be one of **the worst decisions of our life**. Yes, I include "me" in this statement —"I have to see what He sees and **only say what He says**" in this.

If by chance **she has whispered this** story to any others—the evil result that enemy wants in this **can still avoided**—if she will **only speak His narrative** to any who might ask her about this in the future by simply saying only what the Spirit told her, it might be something like **"I have peace that the Lord is...blah blah"** - That sort of approach would cut off the Black Horse inflaming distortions and exaggerations and many false narratives in peoples minds.

[redacted] I have not **sworn before God** to another person more than 2-3 times in 50 years.

But I will do this **one time and only to you**.

*Before God, I assure that there is NOT of one (of these named ladies) that I told that God showed me Diane would die so that I would blah blah blah with them (I cannot even type something as horrible as this).*

If you will insist that these ladies come to me (even to just email me if they do not to talk to me in person) and let me respond.....I am very confident that I will not get even one email - this is inconceivable to me that someone said that about me. The implications for me to have said that would be **HORRIFIC and EVIL**.

It is a terrible injustice to my relationship with you and [redacted] for the narrative of unnamed ladies to be inserted into this conversation (when they have never told me this and never will). Our relationship is far valuable and sovereign to let unnamed voices insert horrible things like this in our relationship - **UGH!!!**

Matthew 18:15 requires that they come to me to win me to repent of a sin that I am continuing in

I asked you **what is the redemptive take away for this is** and you said "that I repent" -

I do not remember in 50 years of ever going to bed at night without having repented of any conscious breach with God from that day. I really love Jesus. I have already sincerely repented of everything that I did a week ago, and a year ago and a decade ago etc. Meaning, I never let a conscious sin go without repenting that night.

So what specifically is it that [redacted] wants me to repent of—or to stop doing? I am not aware of doing anything sinful that I need to repent of—but I always ask Him just in case .

In my many years of ministry, I have seen many who want revenge and punishment—not repentance to win a person to follow Jesus with a clean heart - that is what Matthew 18:15 calls us to ❤️

I hope, I never get asked about this story by others but if I do I will never give any details but I will only and always say the truth that **"I am very confident in the divine narrative about those years—that I have God's pleasure with many tokens of His favor to confirm it** (His pleasure on me from those early years and also in the many years since then) and that **I am confident He will vindicate His pleasure of my life** (without me ever defending myself).

God's narrative over my life is His pleasure over my life from those years. I have never been blameless in 50 years of walking with Jesus but as we embrace the bridal paradigm then we "push delete" and move on with confidence in His delight - that is the Song of Solomon and Hephzibah message of Isa. 62:4. This is our message to the nations.

The Lord has told me on at least 5 supernatural encounters to not vindicate myself but let Him do it in His time so I will continue to do this as I have for 40 years - I would say the same thing I said to Ernie and an number of others - I will not take revenge or vindicate myself but I will let the Lord decide 1 Sam. 24:12-15 that has proven very effective for me over 40 [redacted]. That is the only posture that I will take with this as well as with many more hits from the Black Horse in the future.

I am very aware that Satan (the dragon/black Horse of Rev. 12:10) will use his **supernatural ability to inflame accusations against me, you, [redacted] and many others** who will get involved in this. He wants all of us to be destroyed. Satan is an expert at taking **whispered innuendoes and turning them into hostile accusations.**

And he will use social media to spread accusation based on distortion to multitudes but worse—he will make them it part of the **permanent record** for decades that all of our children and grandchildren will read

Satan will not just do this about what [redacted] might say or what I might say. But also about what many will add and exaggerate in others stories that will emerge out of the social media conversation on this and **It will unnecessary harm to so many—including us and our children**

I saw this with the Ernie Gruen thing - it was chaotic and many relationships were injured in the multi-layers of accusations (all that was before social media). **The enemy convinced him that he was being heroic** but in fact he was being used in a very terrible way—[redacted] regretted it later.

If this story got to social media

1. Many will come to my aid
2. Many will come to [redacted]'s aid
3. But know that the 10+ who over the years have vocalized to me their strong negative views about [redacted] **getting away with speaking about people in harmful ways.** A few will surely speak up—they will assume it would be righteous to finally "put [redacted] in her place". She is really unaware how energize a few of them are. I could give you several examples of this but I will only mention one—those who felt [redacted] was horribly mistreated by what [redacted] said about him—they are convinced [redacted] drove him out of IHOP - I am know of one or two of them who will speak out on this on social media -

yes they will claim that they are *only* defending MB but in really it will *also be* because they have had long term unhappiness that **got away with the unjust treatment of who they cared about**. Satan will inspire lies to be told about related to this story because Satan will breathe on all of the sub-plots that will emerge.

Yes many will come to's aid in this and yet many will also come to the said those telling stories about her related to etc. and more situations—*all of this will follow for the rest of her life*.

Consider urging her to *not* embrace the "false heroic paradigm" of what some many encourage her to do. *It will bring far more pain than affirmation* to and your family. This sort of thing will go on and on until so many of us are hurt.

I will also do whatever I can to help you and in these or other situations - you can trust me to do that. *I truly have fully bought into Ps. 18:35 and Zech 3*. But social media will not be controlled by me so multitudes will attack her and me for different reasons mostly those based in their own pain and negative stories.

I have maybe 100 (?) emails from—several from each of the last 25 years in which *she gushes on how helpful I have been to her in many ways and how righteous I have been*—but now suddenly she dramatically switches her story.

Of course, I will share **NOT** all those 100 email with anyone but Diane (and possibly Stuart if things escalate).

will be very angry, greatly pained and deeply embarrassed especially in having known the story for years. She has wondered why got a free pass. Diane has loved and related to family for many years. She would take it very personal that would say things that would clearly know would cause great pain to family. So I got a feeling she might share some of these email with a few family members—they will also be very angry at so I imagine they will want to set the record straight that is... blah blah blah - it is human nature. In other words, those emails will probably get on the social media. *I hope not, that is not my style at all*. But even in all of this I will only bless and I will never seek revenge nor will I ever defend myself

I will send you an email after this that 50+ IHOP leader got some years ago - It is an email with my favorite prophetic dreams. Here is's part of that email

Dec 19, 2012— prophetic dream about Psalm 89 for MB

My dream opens with me talking to MB. Our conversation is warm and friendly but suddenly turns into intense. In the dream, I placed my hands on his shoulders and say **"you are the chosen leader of this movement. You are the most righteous man. God has made a covenant with you. I begin quoting Psalm 89 (v19-28).**

I had understanding that God made this covenant with MB and MB with Him in 1997 & 1998 and that it was related to FOTB. I prayed with authority, "His covenant He will not break, He has sworn by His holiness, you are David and He will establish that which He promised.

You are His chosen, you are the righteous leader He has chosen. I had weight in my words. As I was prophesying it was like prophetic intercession like you were transitioning into something new related to this covenant. The other specific phrase I quoted was v. 27 *"I will make him my firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth"*. There was



**tremendous attack coming against MB and His covenant with God like David. I woke up with tremendous presence on me. I felt like I wrestled thru the night because the dream was so intense. I felt both great light but also the powers of darkness that were against MB. Every time I spoke about this covenant I felt the authority of God coming against evil assignments.**

Satan as the Black Horse for Rev. 12:10 accusation - will make sure every story will have maybe 5-10 different narratives that people will can pick from—all of them will have dark distortion and exaggeration in them.

Many IHOP staff (current and thousands over the years) will be **embarrassed and even very angry** to hear such horrible stories about me - one reason is because their critics will attack them with these stories and will promote any number of the distorted negative stories that will emerge on social media - It will be nightmare

Humbly, I would not be able to keep my commitment to send you monthly support (**not because of being angry, I will always love and seek to bless you and your children**) but because others would surely find out and **it would appear that I was trying to bribe you** and someone will surely put that on the social media and then many will make more horrible comments about me trying to bribe you. **I hate that I will not be able to support you financially or to use you to help distribute finances to key house of prayer leaders in the nations as planned.**

I know the Lord will take care of you and I am sure that you do not need me to help. (After a few year I will try to figure out a way to get you some support). I will never change my commitment to help you and [redacted] and your children. My commitment to you is from the Lord and it is very precious to me

As I said, as of now I still want the 3 of us to labor together in a deep way in the nations

My role would be mostly proving finances, making handouts and connecting you to many others and being a prayer covering for your family) - **"it is not too late for that to happen"**

**I still believe in you and [redacted] and I will want to go forward and I want to bless your family MUCH**

I would be hurt but never angry at [redacted] and I will always be gracious to her from my heart I will always be an advocate for you and her to others—even in the midst of the 5-10 scenarios what would surely rise up to trouble you and your family—I assure you that **you do not have all the info on these.**

I am not being secretive, I was just not prepared today for this

**I know I am rabbling right now because of how I feel physically and emotionally.** But I wanted to jot a few thoughts down so you have them in your mind before we meet again

I prefer to not have go over each one again in person but I will if needed. I have much more to share.

I was so shocked today that I could not be as clear as I wanted - I was totally spinning and as I told you—I had a low grade fever this morning.

Again, what is the redemptive take away from all of this that will inspire humbly, love and obedience to Jesus and more? I can not see anything redemptive just long term pain and many really hurt relationships  
HELP LORD

I never did tell you the 2-3 things that I wanted to share with you about other topics Again, today I appreciate the privacy you provided for me in meeting me alone and for your kind tone today

Blessings,  
Mike

Mike Bickle App  
<https://linktr.ee/bicklemike>

Intercessory Missionary  
Unceasing Worship App: <https://apple.co/3n6o2cT>

Blessings,  
Mike

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike Bickle <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: MB response to [REDACTED]  
Date: October 23, 2023 at 12:42:52 PM CDT  
To: [REDACTED], Stuart Greeves <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Mike Bickle <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]  
I did not do my emails until late last night  
Stuart talked to me on the phone soon after you emailed him and so I read your email late

I am fully submitted myself to Stuart for ministry accountability - not because of what you are saying because I resigned from IHOP 3 years ago to be full-time with FOTB —But I believe every ministry needs to be accountable to a mature man of God who has freedom and access to call national leaders anytime he feels led by the Spirit. So I am not under the ELT but under Stuart (and whatever national leaders he wants to involve)

Stuart asked me to not meet with you with a group - yes he fine with you and me meeting alone but not with group

He insists that any process related to me goes through him (not through a self appointed governing group)

I am shocked that you already asked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to come "be witnesses" - that means you are sharing info with them that is clearly outside of the biblical process. That concerns me that a "group" feels liberty to set aside Matthew 18:15-18 or to adjust it when it does not seem to work for their plan -

I would be shocked if [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came if you knew what was up —  
I know their hearts—that is not like them — I trust them

I am sure Stuart will be with you at the right time in the process he is leading

I heard a faint whisper that there was a very small group was whisper - I mentioned that in an email to you - it pained me but then I reasoned, "surely whoever it is" they are godly and would never violate a biblical process - plus I received the email where you said that you were not going public but wanted love and gentleness blah blah blah = that blessed me so much so I just let go of this issue for now and did not think much about it - knowing that you and me would talk again at the right time.  
The group seems to be quiet (which is good) but I am just now grasping more of what your group is doing - but I am not sure yet - hmmm -

Stuart is very biblically based, has much ministry experience and is filled with the fear of God and is focused doing what serves God's redemptive purposes - I am confident He will obey God without hesitation and he will oversee a biblical process

I am still waiting on ladies who allegedly have a story to come to me and Stuart according to Matthew 18:15-18

I am very sure none will come because they do have a real story

I am praying

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mike Bickle

Date: Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 8:56 PM

Subject: personal note

To: Mike

I asked [redacted] contact you because **he is one of the few people that we both trust**. We both believe that he fears God and loves fiercely and is very trustworthy.

**I am very sincere in what I told him.**

I want our friendship restored in the years to come (*it may not be until I am 80 and you are 70 but I believe it will be restored, I am ready to begin the process but know that I must be patient*).

My heart for you has not changed even 1%. I saw the Lord crown you in 2004—that is how He sees you and so I will always agree with Him in this. It is the same with Deborah, I have some insight into how the Lord sees her.

Please be assured that **I am 100% against anything that hurts you or our friends** who worked against me in this process. I feel grace and mercy to all without needing any of them to say anything to me. I still love them and pray daily for blessing and honor on them and their families. My perspective is much bigger than what is happening today. On result is that I want **MANY** across the nation to stop speaking against one another (because of my sin).

I assure you that I will honor you and your family all my days. **I will never present you or any of our friends** as betrayers or being agents of the Black Horse. I want peace, humility and love for Jesus and one another and reconciliation with all of us—I know that will take some years but I this is what I am contending for. **I am totally against any speaking against or attacking or suing one another etc. I will not allow anything negative to happen to any of them** to the degree that I have influence. **I will zealously advocate for blessing** those who are against me.

I will not defend myself as I did in our October 9 Monday meeting. I sincerely apologize for that and ask for your forgiveness. And I will gladly step out of ministry long term as Dan described. It is real.

I have had zero voice or interaction with the ELT over the last month—except a few meetings with Stuart at my home a few weeks ago (Sliker was at one) and **I will not have interaction with the ELT in the future. We have separate legal teams.** I have clearly entered a season of disengagement with IHOP and the ELT. I am giving you a voice in how long that season lasts.

I am ready to write a confession. I have been for a few weeks but **I need to know that you and my legal team will have peace with it.** Are you willing to work on me on a statement? I am not sure how to proceed with a statement without having confidence that you will be at peace with it. *Please give me any suggestions.*

I love Jesus and I know you do too, so under His leadership, I am praying that we can begin a redemptive process together.

Biessings,  
Mike



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## **International House of Prayer of Kansas City Concludes Misconduct Investigation**

**April 29, 2019 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

After one full year, all investigations regarding a 2018 sexual misconduct allegation made against an International House of Prayer of Kansas City (IHOPKC) staff member have been completed. “Both the victim and the accused members of this investigation have found resolution,” says a senior IHOPKC official.

“During the course of discovery, the victim realized that the accused did make a genuine apology and she has genuinely forgiven him,” her Sacramento lawyer, Joseph George, said on Friday, December 14, 2018 in a telephone interview with the Modesto Bee.

In 2018, charges were made against an IHOPKC staff member during his tenure in a ministry unrelated to IHOPKC, in another state, over thirty years ago. The accused was placed on a leave of absence while the IHOPKC Executive Leadership Team spent considerable time in discovery and fact-finding with regards to the victim’s accusations. When the injured party escalated the nature of the original claim and requested an expansion to the internal process, IHOPKC agreed to bring in an outside organization of the victim’s recommendation to ensure a fair and thorough investigation.

During the course of both the internal and external investigations, the accused demonstrated genuine remorse and repentance over the clear moral failure committed at that time, as well as complete cooperation with the litigation. The injured realized that the accuser made a genuine apology and has genuinely forgiven him.

"The critical conclusion of the report is that no evidence of further incidents was discovered by the independent firm, nor has there been any evidence of further wrongdoing over the last 30+ years, including time spent at IHOPKC," says a senior IHOPKC official. "IHOPKC diligently seeks to be a safe, accountable, transparent and integrous organization, fully alert and corporately aware to abuses and abusers, of any kind. We desire to be a safe, trustworthy organization that deeply embodies the values and actions of Jesus for justice, mercy, and redemption. We are committed to both the prevention of oppression and to justice for those oppressed. Additionally, we challenge abusers toward full repentance with the hope of eventual restoration."

In response to the review conducted by the external agency, with further recommendations concerning IHOPKC's Sexual Harassment prevention and protection policies, IHOPKC leadership instituted several additional processes to ensure that IHOPKC is a safe place to work, including but not limited to an audit of the Ministry Staff Application Screening Process, training for those that review and interview applicants, Restoration Guidelines for Victims of Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Harassment Training for all IHOPKC staff.

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12-1-08

## **Whistleblower Policy**

### **1. General**

Friends of the Bridegroom, Inc.'s and International House of Prayer's (IHOPKC) Statement of Values and Code of Ethics ("Code") requires Board members, officers, employees and volunteers to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As representatives of the IHOPKC, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

### **2. Reporting Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of all Board members, officers, employees and volunteers to comply with the Code and to report violations or suspected violations of the Code, of IHOPKC policy, or of applicable state and federal law, or the use of IHOPKC property, resources, or authority for personal gain or other non organization-related purpose, except as provided under IHOPKC policy, in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy ("Violation").

### **3. No Retaliation**

No board member, officer, employee or volunteer who in good faith reports a Violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within the IHOPKC prior to seeking resolution outside the IHOPKC.

### **4. Reporting Violations**

All employees should share their questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, an employee's supervisor is in the best position to address an area of concern. However, if you are not comfortable speaking with your supervisor or you are not satisfied with your supervisor's response, you are encouraged to speak with someone in Staff Development or anyone in management whom you are comfortable in approaching. Supervisors and managers are required to report a suspected Violation to the Compliance Officer designated by the Board within two (2) business days. The Compliance Officer has specific and exclusive responsibility to investigate all reported Violations. For suspected fraud, or when you are not satisfied or comfortable with following IHOPKC's policy, individuals should contact IHOPKC's Compliance Officer directly.

### **5. Compliance Officer**

IHOPKC's Compliance Officer is responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning Violations and, at his discretion, shall advise the Executive Director and/or the audit committee. The Compliance Officer has direct access to the audit committee of the board of directors and is required to report to the audit committee at least annually on compliance activity.

#### **6. Accounting and Auditing Matters**

The audit committee of the board of directors shall address all reported concerns or complaints regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing. The Compliance Officer shall immediately notify the audit committee of any such complaint and work with the committee until the matter is resolved.

#### **7. Acting in Good Faith**

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a Violation or suspected Violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a Violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

#### **8. Confidentiality**

Violations or suspected Violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of Violations or suspected Violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

#### **9. Handling of Reported Violations**

The Compliance Officer will notify the sender and acknowledge receipt of the reported Violation or suspected Violation within five business days. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

This policy is adapted from the Sample Whistleblower Policy, Copyright 2004, of the National Council of Nonprofit Associations, [www.ncna.org](http://www.ncna.org).



### Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments

#### I. PROPHETIC WORD FOR IHOP-KC (MARCH 23, 2008)

<sup>7</sup> To the...church in Philadelphia write... <sup>8</sup> I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you...have kept My word...<sup>10</sup> You have kept My command to persevere...<sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev. 3:7-11)

- A. The Lord will visit IHOP-KC with an open door of glory in the spirit and a door of ministry to the nations. When Jesus opens a door of glory to release more of His manifest presence then He requires more agreement with His heart (a higher standard of obedience). We are at a crossroads as the Lord will open a door of His glory. This is a promise with a warning (of judgment).

<sup>51</sup> You shall see heaven open, and the angels...ascending and descending... (Jn. 1:51)

<sup>9</sup> How is it that you (Sapphira) agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? The feet of those who have buried your husband (Ananias) are at the door, they will carry you out. (Acts 5:9)

- B. An open door to the nations causes the "spiritual DNA" of a ministry to be imparted with its good qualities and its deficiencies. Immorality is like an infection or virus in the spiritual DNA.

#### II. JESUS REQUIRES THAT THE CHURCH NOT TOLERATE IMMORALITY

- A. The church of Thyatira was affirmed for growing in love and faith and enduring persecution. Yet, they lacked zeal to take a stand against all allowance of immorality in their spiritual family.

<sup>19</sup> I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience (endurance)...<sup>20</sup> I have a few things against you, because you allow (tolerate, NIV) that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess...to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality... (Rev. 2:19-20)

- B. Immorality is "all sexual activity" that is outside the marriage covenant whether heterosexual or homosexual in all areas of life including physical, verbal or technological (internet), etc.

- C. Immorality in the Church grieves Jesus' heart, injures our heart and family (natural and spiritual) and gives Satan "legal doors of access" into our lives. Immorality causes Jesus to lose part of His inheritance in His people as well as part of their inheritance in Him.

- D. The church of Pergamos was affirmed for holding fast to Jesus' name in a city so wicked that it was described as the place of Satan's throne. Yet, they lacked zeal to confront immorality in the ministries of those who held to the doctrine of Balaam. For the story of Balaam see Num. 22-25. Jesus' correction of a ministry or a person is not rejection but an offer of deliverance.

<sup>13</sup> I know...you dwell where Satan's throne is. You hold fast to My name...<sup>14</sup> I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before...Israel to...commit sexual immorality...<sup>16</sup> Repent, or I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:13-16)

- E. The sword of Jesus' mouth refers to His power being released in our life by the command of His mouth. If we receive the sword of His Word it will free us but if we reject it then it will hurt us. He sends His sword as our friend or foe, depending on how we respond.
- F. Judgment begins in God's house with God's sword. If we voluntarily judge ourselves with the sword of God's Word then He need not judge us in a more severe way with His sword.  
<sup>17</sup> *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God... (1 Pet. 4:17)*
- G. The option to reverse God's judgment is offered to all who repent (Rev. 2:16, 23). Repentance dramatically changes things as it positions us to receive God's mercy and our full inheritance.  
<sup>17</sup> *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart-- these, O God, You will not despise. (Ps. 51:17)*
- H. Jesus promised to make a way of escape for us both as a movement and as individuals.  
<sup>13</sup> *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)*
- I. IHOP-KC made a covenant before the Lord on March 24, 2008 to consistently, comprehensively and tenderly resist all forms of immorality in our midst. In this covenant, we asked the Lord to open a door of glory with His sword of deliverance or His sword of judgment (if we refuse Him).  
<sup>10</sup> *It is in my heart (Hezekiah) to make a covenant with the LORD...<sup>11</sup> My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him...<sup>15</sup> And they gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves...to cleanse the house of the LORD. (2 Chr. 29:10-15)*
- J. The Lord will release bold zeal and clarity of conviction that is filled with the tender mercy of the Bridal paradigm. We seek purity that flows from humility and tenderness not angry holiness. We do not have to choose between zeal for high standards and tender mercy. We can have both.  
<sup>13</sup> *Mercy triumphs over judgment. (Jas 2:13)*
- K. The Lord promised to release the "grace of immunity" which includes "amnesty" for our past failures before we made this covenant on March 24. Immunity is the state of being immune to a disease or the condition that permits resistance to disease. Amnesty is a pardon for offenses granted before the trial because of an act of forgiveness for past offenses.
- L. The Lord wants us to have confidence in God that we will not come under His judgment for our past sins as we make this covenant together. Confidence in God is essential to spiritual vitality. He wants us to know the immunity from the "infected thinking" of the accumulated affect of shame (for past failure), fear of rejection (in being exposed), hopelessness (of experiencing a breakthrough), and of giving up on our highest calling. He wants our commitment to be strengthened by confidence as we proceed together. We are to have solidarity as a spiritual family in our unified stand to bring this "Purity Covenant" to the nations knowing the enemy will strike hard in a counterattack against us.

III. SEVEN PERSONAL COMMITMENTS BEFORE THE LORD (6 MONTH COMMITMENT)

<sup>16</sup> Confess your trespasses to one another...that you may be healed. (Jas 5:16)

- A. **Commitment #1:** I commit to refuse to participate in conversations that promote or joke about immorality. If I do speak in this way, I will confess to those I was conversing with that I sinned.
- B. **Commitment #2:** I commit to confess to the same trusted friend (who embraces this covenant) each time I view pornography or have any sexual contact with someone (not my spouse).
- C. **Commitment #3:** I commit to register with the technology of choice that promotes the wisdom and safety of accountability whether or not I struggle with pornography. Accountability Software: These programs track your internet activity and send an email to the accountability partner that you choose. If you uninstall the software it triggers a report to your partner. See [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com) (\$2.50 per month); [www.x3watch.com](http://www.x3watch.com) (Free); [www.integrity.com](http://www.integrity.com) (free); [www.accountable2you.com](http://www.accountable2you.com) (free). Web Filtering Software: Programs that block sexual content including pornography, gambling, violence: [www.integrity.com](http://www.integrity.com) (\$49.95); [www.bsafefhome.com](http://www.bsafefhome.com) (\$49.95); [www.intego.com](http://www.intego.com) (For Mac's); [www.cyberpatrol.com](http://www.cyberpatrol.com) (39.95).
- D. **Commitment #4:** I commit to hold any confession of my friend's failure in strict confidentiality. If I do speak it to another then I commit to tell it to the one who confessed their sin to me. The one who breaks confidence should confess also to the one to whom he broke the confidence.
- E. **Commitment #5:** If I "repeatedly" stumble in immorality, I will show the fruit of repentance by going with my friend to confess to the leadership and then accept the boundaries they give me.
- F. **Commitment #6:** I commit to share with the leadership if my friend "repeatedly" stumbles in immorality. I will first tell my friend before sharing with a leader to convince him to go with me.  
<sup>15</sup> If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 If he will not hear, take with you one or two more...17 If he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. (Mt. 18:15-17)
- G. **Commitment #7: For leaders:** I commit to follow the process of bringing those who 'continue' in immorality to the appropriate level of "discipline" instead of offering them "unsanctified mercy".  
<sup>20</sup> Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all... (1 Tim 5:20, NAS)  
<sup>5</sup> Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor. 5:5)
- H. We will not bring public shame to anyone who repents. We hope to never expose one's sin publicly. There are many levels of discipline that do not require personal exposure.  
<sup>8</sup> Above all things have fervent love...for love will cover a multitude of sins. (1 Pet. 4:8)  
<sup>9</sup> He who covers a transgression seeks love... (Prov. 17:9)

members should not initiate hugs of any kind, and there are no frontal hugs allowed. If a child or teen begins to hug a KidCity7 ministry team member, the worker is to turn his/her body for a side hug only. Workers are not to grab or discipline by physical touch, and no swats or corporal punishment should ever be administered by staff.

**Picture-Taking Policy**

The CEC strives to protect the privacy of all children we serve and to prevent photographs of CEC children from being misused in any way. To this end, we have set guidelines in place for taking and storing pictures of CEC children. This policy will apply to all persons serving within CEC at all CEC classes, programs, events, outreaches, and ministry settings.

Persons serving in CEC may not take pictures of children unless directly instructed to do so by CEC leadership for CEC's marketing purposes. Those pictures should be immediately forwarded to [cecmarketing@ihopkc.org](mailto:cecmarketing@ihopkc.org), or in CEC supervisor. All pictures of CEC children are uploaded to a secure server. The persons who took the pictures and all persons in possession of copies of those pictures must then delete all pictures of CEC children from their personal devices, including phones, computers, email, cloud file storage, etc. CEC staff cannot keep pictures of CEC children for any use, even in support raising materials.

**Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect**

If an approved worker within the ministry suspects or has a report that a child is unsafe, abused emotionally, physically, or sexually, prior to discussing the situation with anyone, they are to report the situation first to his/her direct supervisor/director.

When it becomes necessary to report suspected child abuse or neglect, the protection of children must be the most important concern.

It is the legal responsibility of a mandated reporter to report all cases of child abuse or neglect they observe, and further, to report visible signs of alleged abuse or neglect.

Failure to report could lead to liability on the part of the church, the observer, or both.

The confidentiality of the pastor/attendee relationship is very important.

Upon observing or suspecting abuse, the caregiver shall immediately do the following:

Make sure the child's safety and comfort is secured.

Make sure the suspected abuser is safely away from the children.

Report the abuse or neglect promptly to the pastor or director of Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries.

To preserve confidentiality, it is important to discuss the incident initially only with any of these four individuals.

Department leadership, along with the individual receiving a report or suspecting child abuse, will proceed to give information to the division head Lenny LaGuardia, Vice President of Ministries & Justice.

The VP of Ministries will proceed to determine whether there are grounds to support a report being made to the Missouri Children's Division (i.e., reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect). Prior to any reporting to Children's & Family services, the VP will inform, consult, and inform Jono Hall, COO, and Eric Opprieht, Compliance Officer.

# Firefly – Independent Sexual Abuse Investigations

(717)752-4219

## INVESTIGATOR SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into on and dated September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, by and between Firefly Independent Sexual Abuse Investigations, 420 Crum Road, Fairfield, PA., herein referred to as (FIREFLY), and Tikkun International, 1112 Timber Ridge Dr., Euless, TX 76039 herein referred to as (CLIENT).

### A. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

The CLIENT retains FIREFLY to conduct an independent investigation into allegations of sexually abusive misconduct<sup>1</sup> by Mike Bickle in his association with the International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO (hereinafter referred to as IHOPKC), (or any other ministry where Mike Bickle held a leadership position) and others in leadership at IHOPKC during that time—and whether there were systemic patterns of behavior within the IHOPKC leadership that contributed to any abuse (if the abuse is confirmed).

**FIREFLY** shall also investigate the cover-up of any allegation of sexual abuse/misconduct connected with IHOPKC that was reported to IHOPKC leadership. This shall include how IHOPKC leadership responded to such allegations brought to them and how incorrect responses negatively affected victims.

Note: We will not investigate consensual sexual relations between students and interns.

FIREFLY will post a public online survey that will be made available to the broader IHOPKC community (former and active) to assist the investigation team in collecting relevant information within the scope of this investigation.

This engagement is limited to the above-referenced scope that the parties have agreed to in this engagement agreement. **Understanding that investigations can evolve as facts come to light, the parties agree that**

<sup>1</sup> FIREFLY will take a wider view of sexual abuse and sexually abusive misconduct to include not only abuse within the historically-narrow understanding of those terms (sexual assault and battery without consent) but also to include physical and nonphysical conduct that a person suffers, submits to, participates in, or performs due to the deception, manipulation, coercion, grooming (children and adults) and/or intimidation by another.

any material changes to the scope of this engagement will be conveyed in writing and signed by the parties.

## B. FEES AND BILLING

CLIENT shall place [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the possession of FIREFLY to serve as an initial retainer to specifically commence investigation services on/or about September 2, 2024, after the retainer has been received. Upon the signing of this contract, FIREFLY will send the CLIENT an invoice for the retainer fee.

The initial retainer fee will cover the following:

- a. Initial airfare to the location of victims and/or witnesses
- b. Initial hotel stays
- c. Rental car as needed
- d. Meals
- e. Parking
- f. Database and background checks on the SUBJECT and others as needed

The parties agree that the actual fees for services charged by FIREFLY are as follows:

- a. **INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES:** Hourly rate of [REDACTED] total per hour (not per person). This hourly rate will include Telephone and/or Personal Interviews, Inquiries, Background, On-Line Investigations, Internet, Travel Time, Computer Database Research, Business/Corporate Record Searches, report writing, and CLIENT conferences.
- b. **BILLING INCREMENTS:** Firefly records and bills its time in one-tenth hour (six minute) increments.

c. **TRAVEL RATE:** A daily flat rate of \$ [REDACTED] per travel day

d. **OTHER EXPENSES PAID BY THE CLIENT ARE:**

- Drive Mileage - (\$0.67.0 mile)
- Rental Car (if needed)
- Tolls
- Airfare (Utilizing Delta Airlines with Delta Comfort Seating)
- Hotel Fees
- Court Appearances (Hourly Rate)
- Administrative (Hourly Rate)
- Database Fees

e. **BILLING**

After the initial retainer is exhausted, the **CLIENT** will be invoiced every two (2) weeks for the services rendered and will be due within two (2) weeks after receiving the invoice.

**C. VERBAL UPDATES:**

Due to the unexpected nature of this type of Investigation, it is impossible to determine the amount of time it will take to complete. Therefore, after each 30 hours of billed time, **FIREFLY** will provide the **CLIENT** a general status update of the Investigation and to obtain authorization before continuing forward with the investigation. Should such authorization not be provided, this shall be deemed to be a Notice of Termination as defined in Section E.

**CLIENT** agrees to pay all fees and costs hereinafter incurred as a result of any investigation. As such, **CLIENT** agrees that the **FIREFLY** empowered to perform said services for and on behalf of **CLIENT**, and to do all things necessary, appropriate, or advisable in performing said services for and in the best interests of **CLIENT**. The parties hereby agree that the following investigative services have been requested by **CLIENT** under this Agreement and will be provided by **FIREFLY**, but that the actual time and way the following investigative services are conducted shall be left to the sole discretion of the **AGENCY**.

**D. TIMELINE:**

**FIREFLY** will begin this Independent Investigation within four (4) weeks of the execution of this Agreement. **FIREFLY** will make every effort to complete it in a timely manner and will make every effort to complete and deliver the Report within thirty days of completing the Investigation.

**E. WRITTEN NOTICE OF TERMINATION:**

Either party may terminate this agreement at any time for any reason by giving a fifteen (15) day written notice of termination to the other. If the contract is terminated by the **CLIENT**, **FIREFLY** shall have fifteen (15) days to submit a final invoice for all services rendered and costs incurred up to the date of receiving the termination notice. The **CLIENT** shall pay the final invoice within fifteen (15) days of receipt.

**F. DISCLAIMER:**

**CLIENT** expressly acknowledges that the fees for services are NOT contingent on the outcome or results of the above referenced investigation. **FIREFLY MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR GUARANTEES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION.** No illegal or unethical services will be knowingly provided by **FIREFLY** and **CLIENT** certifies that he/she/it is not knowingly requesting any illegal services. **AGENCY** reserves the right to decline or terminate without advance notice any assignment it deems to be illegal or unethical or in **FIREFLY'S** sole opinion detrimental to **FIREFLY**.

**G. REPORTS:**

**FIREFLY** will generate a written report of the investigation in a timely manner at the completion of the investigation given the **CLIENT'S** account is not in arrears. Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that the quality of the information will be accurate, however; **FIREFLY** will not be responsible for information contained within database reports which **FIREFLY** has no control over the content. Reports may also include photographs and video tape.



At the conclusion of the investigation **FIREFLY** will meet with the **CLIENT** and his or her designated group to discuss the findings and a final written report will be prepared and submitted at that time.

Original notes or documents considered "work product" will not be released and remain the property of **FIREFLY**. Only the written final report is released to the **CLIENT**. **FIREFLY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHHOLD ANY AND ALL REPORTS AND/OR EVIDENCE PENDING PAYMENT IN FULL AND BANK CLEARANCE THEREOF.**

**H. ACCURACY OF INFORMATION SOURCES:**

Database search reports are performed strictly by the information provided on the **SUBJECT** and **VICTIM** by **FIREFLY**. Any error in spelling, format or sequence of letters, words or numbers can result in wrong information on the subject. Data is supplied from different private sources, computer systems, public information facilities, government open record institutions and might also contain confidential source information. All attempts are made to maintain the integrity of this data. **FIREFLY** cannot be held liable for inaccuracies contained in public record information or databases accessed. Furthermore, information has been gathered from sources and individuals deemed reliable by **FIREFLY**; however, no guarantee, warranty, or other representation is made as to the accuracy of information received from third parties, or its suitability for any particular purpose. If the information reported is not "Original Source" information, it is strongly recommended that any information gathered be cross-referenced with "Original Source" information.

**I. CLIENT MISREPRESENTATION:**

**CLIENT** attests that he/she has not misrepresented itself, its company, organization, or purpose for requesting the services that **FIREFLY** provides. **The CLIENT** understands that misrepresentation in this agreement, in **FIREFLY'S** sole opinion, may result in civil and criminal action against the **CLIENT** and/or his organization as well as all monies paid to be forfeited. **FIREFLY** reserves the right to refuse service to the **CLIENT** for any issue of security, safety, unlawful, unethical, or immoral reasons. **CLIENT** further represents that the information provided by the **FIREFLY** shall be used in a lawful and ecclesiastical manner and that said

information will not be used to purposely cause any physical or emotional harm upon the subject of the investigation.

**J. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All investigative findings furnished to **CLIENT** are exclusively for **CLIENTS** own use. **CLIENT** agrees to restrict the dissemination of said findings **ONLY** to third parties who have a legitimate need to know, and/or authorized by law and in connection with ecclesiastical procedures. **FIREFLY** will keep findings strictly confidential and will not disseminate or release any findings to third parties unless authorized **IN WRITING** by the **CLIENT**, or court ordered.

**K. GOVERNING LAW:**

This being the entire Agreement of both parties is expressed in this document and no verbal understandings, agreements or other documents shall alter, modify, or change the terms of this contract. This agreement is binding for the benefit of and upon the parties hereto, their heirs, executors, assigns, legal representatives, and successors. As to terminology context in this agreement, singular shall mean plural and vice versa. **CLIENT** has had the opportunity to read this Agreement in full and the option to have it reviewed by an attorney. Having no unanswered questions, **CLIENT** hereby authorizes this investigation and agrees to all the terms and conditions listed herein. By signing this Agreement, I as **CLIENT** hereby personally certify and affirm that the information supplied above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge at this time. I further represent and affirm that I am authorized to order this investigation and financially contract for this assignment. I also understand that my knowingly supplying false or misleading information may result in my case being rejected and/or terminated.

A signed copy or a signed facsimile of this retainer agreement will be valid as an original.

**AGREED BY THE PARTIES HERETO:**

Jim Holler:

*Jim Holler*

Signature

Date: 05/09/2024 *063f*

Tikkun International:

*Lynn Frederick*

Signature

Date: 09/04/2024

Lynn Frederick, Director of Operations, Tikkun Int'l, Inc.  
Print Name