

From: Fac-Staff-Admin [REDACTED] > on behalf of Wheaton College President's Office [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 3:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Message Concerning Former Professor Gilbert Bilezikian:

Dear Wheaton College Community,

As I shared previously, Willow Creek Community Church announced last month that one of its former church leaders—Gilbert Bilezikian, Th.D., who is a retired Wheaton College Professor of New Testament—was found by Willow Creek elders to have behaved inappropriately toward a female congregant.

After receiving notice of this development, we immediately reopened our own investigation and invited people to share any information or concerns by contacting us at WeListen@wheaton.edu. Through this process, we learned of additional allegations of inappropriate and unprofessional conduct, which we investigated. The investigative process included interviews of parties and witnesses, gathering written documentation, and an opportunity for Dr. Bilezikian to respond to the allegations.

Based on the information gathered during the investigation and upon the recommendation of the administration, the Wheaton College Board of Trustees has rescinded Dr. Bilezikian's title of Professor Emeritus effective immediately.

This is a painful situation in which some of our alumnae stepped forward to share experiences from the past that prompted a wide range of reactions, including anger, hurt, and confusion. We ask that you pray for them and hope that they are able to find some measure of peace and resolution.

Wheaton is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all members of our community, including the provision of comprehensive sexual misconduct prevention and response resources. More information on our policies and resources for prevention, reporting, support, and education can be found [here](#).

We recognize that some members of our community may experience difficult emotions in the wake of this decision. To that end, the Provost will be following up with an e-mail to faculty and staff, on behalf of Interim Dean of Student Wellness Dr. Toussaint Whetstone, with suggestions for how to engage and care for students and colleagues who may need support.

Sincerely,
Philip Ryken
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