

## **Statement from Former Mars Hill Church Elders:**

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

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

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

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

In faith, hope, and love through Jesus,

### **Former Mars Hill Church Elders**

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

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

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