



## Media inquiry - Seeking statement from Grace Church

Rodriguez, Barry [REDACTED]  
To: Josh Shepherd [REDACTED]  
Cc: "Pratt, Bryan" [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 1:53 PM

Josh,

Thank you for reaching out. I can share with you this brief statement which includes relevant facts of our response to the allegations:

*Grace Church is deeply committed to justice, elevating the role of women in the church, and protecting the vulnerable. When we received an anonymous email alleging that, in 2009, a congregant had a relationship with a 25-year-old volunteer, we immediately hired outside counsel to investigate. Based on the investigation, we concluded that, although the relationship was consensual and the congregant was 18 years old, it was inappropriate. The volunteer leader, who now has a full-time role with the church, accepted responsibility for his actions, apologized to the congregation publicly, demonstrated remorse for his mistakes, and participated in counseling sessions focused on the impact of his past actions.*

*While respecting her privacy, Grace offered resources and support to the woman involved and has been open and transparent with our congregation about what had occurred. This included providing opportunities for those in our community to ask questions directly to the church's leadership. Grace also consulted with multiple trauma informed experts to learn and to shape ongoing policies and volunteer protocols to make sure this type of situation doesn't happen again.*

*Grace wants to see the injustice of our world healed, and we believe that only happens by protecting the vulnerable and powerless while also offering grace to those who have atoned.*

Thank you.



**Barry Rodriguez**

Grace Church  
Lead Pastor  
[REDACTED]

[gracechurch.us](http://gracechurch.us)

