

From: Thomas Lassitter <mailer@churchcenteronline.com>

Date: December 20, 2024 at 2:16:09 PM EST

Subject: Important CBC Family Update

Reply-To: thomas@communitybible.net



Dear CBC Family Members,

We deeply value the trust of our church family and want to provide clarity and address recent events involving our former youth pastor, Matt Swider. Community Bible Church leadership has approached these matters with integrity, transparency, and a consistent commitment to the well-being and safety of our congregation. Recently, one former couple in our church has decided to use social media to create a false narrative that somehow the church leaders neglected their responsibility to keep people protected or tried to cover up information. While we have engaged an external legal firm to conduct an impartial investigation into the circumstances related to our former youth pastor, we also felt it important to share key pieces of information directly with our church family.

The former CBC couple regularly posting on social media, raised concerns about Matt Swider in late 2023 and early 2024. Church leadership acted immediately and engaged an external investigator to review the situation. Despite multiple attempts to involve this family in the investigation, they declined to participate, which limited the scope of the process. The investigation ultimately found no evidence of misconduct, and it was

confirmed in writing that the concerns raised did not involve allegations of serious or legal wrongdoing.

When unrelated non-criminal allegations about Matt's conduct outside the church surfaced on December 9, 2024, church leadership met with Matt, and he resigned immediately. Law enforcement advised that they could not become involved given the nature of the allegations. However, CBC promptly engaged an impartial law firm to launch a new external investigation. Leadership communicated extensively with youth leaders and parents of students in the ministry, followed by informing the congregation of Matt's resignation on December 15.

On December 14, the husband of the couple who are posting on social media issued a threat to one of our staff members, so our security team was alerted and made aware of the threatening comments. This language, combined with their continued behavior and the fact that they showed up in person, raised serious concerns for the safety of our congregation on December 15. When they arrived at a service that Sunday, they were asked to leave. Their refusal escalated the situation, requiring law enforcement intervention where they were politely escorted off campus.

We understand that this couple's recent social media posts may raise questions. However, the church's actions throughout this process have consistently reflected diligence, fairness, and accountability. We all share the desire to discover the truth and have yet again invited this same family to participate in the investigative process. We have prioritized safety and have handled all concerns responsibly, balancing transparency with privacy and adhering to proper investigative procedures.

We are ready and available to any CBC member that has additional questions and would encourage anyone that has concerns to bring them forward to us. Thank you for your prayers and support as we navigate this challenging time and remain focused on celebrating Christ's birth.

In Him,

The CBC Executive Staff and Elders