



On January 20, 2021, The Summit Church engaged the firm Guidepost Solutions LLC to review Bryan Loritts' response to sexual abuse allegations at Fellowship Memphis in 2010. After talking with the Caring Well team and desiring to do everything possible to foster a culture in churches that is safe from abuse and safe for survivors, the Summit decided it would be helpful to get an independent firm to review this matter. Our full statement on why we took this step can be found [here](#).

We selected Guidepost Solutions at the recommendation of trusted advocates. They have known expertise in investigations and assessing institutional processes and dynamics specifically related to sexual harassment, abuse, and assault. Additionally, they are independent from any geographic location, entity, or denominational affiliation.

We believe that the independence of the investigation, full waiver of privilege, and provision for anonymous reporting constitute vital protocol for vetting any questions or concerns related to abuse allegations. We also believe that commitment to a full public accounting is likewise foundational, including providing complete information on how information was gathered, fully detailing the facts found, and noting where questions or testimonies conflict in ways that factual information could not resolve.

In keeping with that commitment, we have now received the final report from Guidepost Solutions. We are sharing that report in its entirety. This twenty-page report, which can be found [here](#), includes information about the scope of engagement, sources of information, investigative findings, and unresolved factual questions. We have received and reviewed it with a sincere desire to learn from its findings and improve any future protocols.

With respect to the primary question of whether Bryan covered up abuse, the report states that they could not corroborate the claims that Bryan had discouraged anyone from going to the police, and did receive evidence that he encouraged reporting to authorities. In its conclusion, the report says, "Through our interviews, reviews of documents and reviews of communications, we found no convincing evidence that Loritts was involved in a cover up." We trust Bryan, believe he is qualified for ministry, and have confidence in him to lead at the highest levels.

While this report affirms our confidence in Bryan's position here at the Summit, we note that there are many questions that remain unanswered in regards to what took place at Fellowship Memphis among other pastoral staff, including the still unresolved question of what happened to the phone, and questions related to the advice the pastors received about the handling of the phone. It is the Summit's position that independent assessments by a qualified firm are an important step for churches to take where significant questions of mishandling or covering up

abuse have been raised. Should Fellowship Memphis be willing to undergo this process, The Summit Church and Pastor Bryan pledge their full cooperation with the process.

We are grateful for the level of clarity this report yielded. We also realize that learning to care for the wounded will be a continual journey. As a church and a leadership staff, we are committed to continuing to grow in understanding abuse, trauma, and abusive dynamics.