



July 25, 2024

### **INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UPDATE**

On January 25, 2024, The Stier Group commenced an investigation to assess (1) allegations of behavioral misconduct by Brett Bymaster that are directly or indirectly related to RCC, (2) whether RCC had any knowledge of such allegations, and (3) if so, how RCC responded to such allegations. TSG was also asked to assess RCC's management of Brett Bymaster. In April 2024, it was brought to our attention that there is an ongoing criminal matter relating to Mr. Bymaster.

As a matter of policy, our team has paused our independent investigation due to the ongoing criminal matter. This is standard policy and process that was directed by our team to avoid interfering in any way with the criminal process. Due to the uncertain nature of the criminal process, we are unable to state when the investigation pause will be lifted. As such, this investigative pause will remain in effect until further notice. This means that our team will pause reaching out to witnesses, conducting interviews, and other matters related to the investigation.

While the investigation is paused, our team will still be here to answer process questions as needed. Please note that during an ongoing independent investigation, we may be limited with information we can share, but we will do our very best to answer questions in a timely fashion.

It is important to note that our investigative process is separate from any ongoing criminal matter. If anyone has information about the criminal matters, they should reach out to Detective Camarillo of the San Jose Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Task force at 408-273-2959 or email [4576@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:4576@sanjoseca.gov).

The individuals affiliated with the River Church Community independent investigation by The Stier Group have been Amy Stier, Jennifer VanPatten, Lee Ann James, and Wade Mullen. If anyone outside of these four individuals reaches out (or has reached out) to speak with you regarding these matters, they are not affiliated with our investigation or our firm.

We would also like to update everyone that Wade Mullen has been hired full-time at GRACE ([netgrace.org](http://netgrace.org)). We are so excited for him in this decision. However, moving forward, Wade will not be part of our investigative team. We will be consulting with him on matters on an as needed basis regarding work and interviews he has already conducted. Please note that this decision will in no way impact the outcome of our process.

We thank all those who have come forward. We look forward to resuming this in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Lead Investigator, Amy Stier at [amy@thestiergroup.com](mailto:amy@thestiergroup.com)

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Stier".

INSPIRING HOPE IN OTHERS