

## ELDER UPDATE NOVEMBER 21, 2019 TRANSCRIPT

### Brian Laird's opening:

Hello Harvest family. We want to welcome you here in Elgin as well as everyone who is joining us live from our other campuses. This is an important evening in the life of our church and we have some sobering information to pass along to you. And what we pray is some hopeful information as well. I'd like to start in prayer before we dive in. Will you please join me?

Heavenly father. Lord, we just want to seek you as a church. And Lord, we just want to humbly ask tonight that you give us clarity in our speech, wisdom in how we think. But Lord, most importantly, will you give us purity in our thoughts? Lord, I ask that you will strengthen Tim and myself as we try to do our best to lead our congregation through this information. Most importantly, Lord, will you bless us by keeping us moving forward for your glory and not ours? In Jesus name I pray and all God's people said, "Amen."

So I'd like to start by stating that our goal for this evening is to honor God first and foremost, to love his church by being truthful and grace-filled. And to give you hope that this is a new day, a new day to help you heal. As elders, we want to shepherd the flock and love the people of Harvest Bible Chapel by being open and honest about some of the issues we have had in the past. We also want everything we do to be done in love, even when it's difficult. And finally, we want to build confidence that a new day is upon us. A new day of improved transparency, accountability, integrity, and love. Our heart is to bring the light of day and the sting of medicine to clean out the wound so our body can begin to continue or continue to heal.

We do not intend to rush you to healing, but we want to lovingly, gently, and purposefully move you toward health and wholeness, to restored relationships and effective, joyful service to our Lord Jesus Christ. So how are we going to do that? How are we going to proceed this evening? First, we will explain the process of the legal evaluation and **the accompanying financial review** and then we'll report their findings as well as the next steps that are going to be taken. At the end of the evening, we will stay down front with some of the members of our finance committee to individually answer questions that you may have. Additionally, by the time you get home tonight, the independent third party legal evaluation that includes the findings from **the forensic accountants** will be posted to the Harvest website under the elder updates page.

We're going to tell you about our attorney and what **the forensic accountants** found as they evaluated our church, particularly the spending in the office of the former senior pastor. What you're about to hear tonight and read later is not a sanitized version, it is the full report. When you see the documents posted tonight, we believe you will have a full and clear understanding of what happened and why it happened. We are working to do the best that we can do to earn trust as your leaders and we are praying most of all that we want to lead you well and that's our desire. I'm now going to ask Tim Stoner, our elder from Deerfield Road campus who's leading our finance committee as the elder board treasurer, who's going to walk us through the review.