

## REPORT ON INITIAL FINDINGS

November 15, 2023

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Three weeks ago, on October 24, a group of men led by a local Kansas City pastor, (the “Complaint Group”) officially presented IHOPKC’s Executive Leadership Team (“ELT”) with a series of allegations against Mike Bickle allegedly made by eight women whom the Complaint Group claimed to represent.

After three weeks of examination, IHOPKC has identified five of eight alleged victims.

Three of those five have publicly called the allegations lies, a fourth has not wanted to communicate with IHOPKC’s attorney, and the fifth’s allegations relate to incidents that preceded IHOPKC’s founding. Further, it became apparent that the Complaint Group did not have permission to include at least four of the women in their list of alleged victims.

We remain committed to verifying the remaining allegations, but we need the Complaint Group to assist in our inquiry of the remaining alleged victims to ensure their veracity. There is much at stake in getting to the truth.

Like many of you, we were deeply troubled and distressed to learn of the multiple allegations against Mr. Bickle. The ELT took these allegations very seriously and within 24 hours began the process of looking into the details, as well as asking Mr. Bickle to step away from public ministry to allow for a proper inquiry to be conducted.

Within days, the ELT commenced consultation of outside legal experts on how to conduct a proper examination of the facts and how to best handle the situation. Significantly, at all times, the allegations were treated as if they were credible in order to care for any past or present victim while objective due diligence was to be performed. However, upon review by outside legal counsel, it was determined that the collection and presentation of the allegations by the Complaint Group lacked any semblance of reliability or due process.

The document prepared by the Complaint Group to accompany the presentation of allegations on October 24 does not contain any actual evidence: no statements from the victims, whether sworn or unsworn, and no emails, texts, or other exhibits between Mr. Bickle and the alleged victim to substantiate the allegations (only blank squares acting as exhibit placeholders).

The Complaint Group’s allegations were also presented along with a list of pre-prepared demands “to prevent escalating levels of disclosure.” These demands and threats, which included dictating the use of IHOPKC’s funds, generated an atmosphere of concern regarding the true objectives of the Complaint Group.

## **INITIAL FINDINGS:**

On the week of October 24, the Complaint Group presented a list of eight alleged victims to the IHOPKC leadership team. The Group did not, and has not, claimed that these women had ever previously made their allegations known to IHOPKC prior to October 2023.

However, it has become abundantly clear over the last three weeks that four of the women were presented as alleged victims without their consent.

Some of the Complaint Group's allegations were presented in a document and some of the allegations were presented orally in conversation.

Three women were identified by their initials in the document. An additional five anonymous Jane Does are listed in the document but the Complaint Group would not share their names or any details about these allegations (or how these women came to be represented by the Complaint Group).

Then, IHOPKC was given the names of two additional women orally during conversations that took place the week of October 24.

At that point, a total of five alleged victims had been identified by name.

### **• Alleged Victim #1 (unable to verify)**

According to the Complaint Group, the first of the "named" victims (named by her initials) alleges Mr. Bickle emotionally pursued and "prophetically manipulated" her more than 25 years ago. The allegation contains only six short lines of text and is non-sexual. It contains no first-person statements by the alleged victim herself.

IHOPKC has been made aware of evidence that suggests this woman was contacted by a member of the Complaint Group in early October in an attempt to recruit her to be part of the alleged victim group. It remains unclear if she gave permission for her name to be included as an alleged victim.

### **• Alleged Victim #2 (partial credibility established)**

The second, and only detailed, allegation is from 26 years ago, before IHOPKC was founded. The allegations include physical contacts between Mr. Bickle and an adult woman; it is also insinuated that Mr. Bickle may have committed a crime. IHOPKC has not been able to determine whether this criminal allegation has any credibility. Nonetheless, in light of the detail provided, IHOPKC immediately asked Mr. Bickle to step away from his ministry at the church while the allegation was further investigated. Our attorney then reached out to this alleged victim by phone and email on November 9, without success. Then on November 10, we learned that the founder of G.R.A.C.E. was the attorney representing her regarding these allegations. IHOPKC's attorney was able to make initial contact with this attorney on November 13 and 15.

- **Alleged Victim #3 (refuted)**

A third alleged claim asserts that a woman (again, named by her initials) was a victim of being pursued emotionally and “prophetic manipulation” from 2013-2018. On November 2, this woman issued a public statement that she was not a victim of Mr. Bickle. The woman also sent a letter to IHOPKC’s attorney stating that the Complaint Group were “bullies” and that she never gave them permission to use her name.

- **Alleged Victim #4 (refuted)**

On October 31, a woman who was identified orally in conversation by the leader of the Complaint Group to be part of the alleged victim group, issued a lengthy public statement that she was not a victim of Mr. Bickle. Her statement also detailed how she had been contacted by a member of the Complaint Group “who basically insinuated and assumed (based on something that was said secondhand about me years ago), that I was Mike’s victim.” She stated that she told them very clearly that she did not want to be contacted on this issue again and did not want to have anything to do with the accusations coming against Mr. Bickle.

- **Alleged Victim #5 (refuted)**

On the same day, October 31, another alleged victim released a public statement via her social media account, refuting any claims that she had ever been sexually or spiritually abused by Mr. Bickle, and that any claims to the contrary were lies. This woman had been named by the Complaint Group orally during the October 24 ELT meeting. Our attorney spoke with this woman ten days after she released her statement, and she maintained her emphatic denial of any misconduct by Mr. Bickle toward her or any sexual involvement with him.

- **Alleged Victim #6 (refuted)**

Then, on November 3, IHOPKC leadership received an email from a woman who heard that her name was being used as part of the allegations presented against Mr. Bickle. Her name did not come up at the October 24 ELT meeting, but she is the sixth woman whose name has emerged. She approached IHOPKC’s leadership team to let them know these rumors were not true. She expressed that she was hurt to find out that her name was being used as part of these allegations and wrote an email to the ELT, emphatically denying that any form of abuse or any inappropriate relationship with Mr. Bickle had ever taken place. She is the fifth woman to refute that she is an alleged victim.

## **CONCLUSION:**

IHOPKC has heard the demands to bring in a third party to investigate the organization in general, but this step is premature until IHOPKC can establish the credibility of the allegations and genuine intent of the Complaint Group.

We hope that by sharing our preliminary findings regarding these allegations, you will understand why it is premature at this juncture to have a third party conduct a community-wide investigation.

IHOPKC remains open to inviting a third party (or even multiple third parties) to examine these findings. It is our sincerest desire that alleged anonymous Jane Does would come forward as soon as possible, either directly to IHOPKC's attorney, via the Complaint Group or through their own legal representative, so that IHOPKC can then take the appropriate next steps.