

Statement of Les Hughey, senior pastor of Highlands Community Church in Scottsdale, Ariz., sent to The Bee on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

*Over 40 years ago, as a church intern in California, I sinned and harmed the most important relationships in my life. I was unfaithful to my God, my wife, and the ministry, and was rightly removed from that church. I engaged in consensual relations with fellow college-aged staff.*

*With God's help, my wife's forgiveness, and discipline and counseling from church authority, I sincerely repented and we put our lives back in order.*

*Unfortunately, it's impossible to undo what happened, so I instead accept and live with the consequences, even now so many years later. My family and the authority over me at my church are aware of this history. I thank God for his forgiveness and grace.*

*Pastor Les Hughey*