

# IMMANUEL

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 18, 2020

Church family,

*He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.*  
Psalm 147:3

This letter is an update to our September letter informing you of the abuse uncovered within the congregation.

First, we want to sincerely thank you for your prayerful, Godly and kind response to that letter. Our conversations with you have been helpful, your questions have been thoughtful, and your response has made a heavy burden a little lighter.

Second, we want to let you know that no new instances of abuse have been uncovered by the important conversations you've been having with your children. We are thankful that, thus far, the magnitude of the problem has not increased. If any parents have not taken this opportunity to speak with their children about these matters, please do so soon. We are ready to help you through those conversations in any way we can.

Third, we wanted to make more clear than was in our last letter that the abuse has not only been stopped, but that active measures are being implemented to prevent any more instances, both from the offender in question and from anyone else. For the offender, there is an ongoing supervision by several adults and safety plan already in place, and there will be no ministry to children or unsupervised contact with children or those of the opposite sex. The elders are also supportive of the safety plan developed by the family for life outside of the church.

More generally, in addition to our Child Protection Policy, the move to a new building gives us a great opportunity to develop a comprehensive safety plan, addressing the physical safety of the whole congregation in the new building and new location on a major thoroughfare in West Lafayette. You will hear more about this in coming months. If you are interested in helping with this planning, please let us know.

What else can you do? Please continue to pray often. Pray for healing for the victims and their families. Pray the offender will respond to the discipline of the church and find Christ's power in battling against sin. Pray for us, that our efforts to shepherd and protect the most vulnerable among us will succeed by the wisdom and grace provided by God. And as we pray, let us commit together to protecting our covenant kids with watchfulness and care. Parents, the more you create a family culture of openness and awareness of sexuality and safety within your homes, the more our church will be protected.

Yours in Christ,  
Immanuel RPC Session  
Zachary, David, Ben, Keith, Jared & Nate