



# NewLifeChurch

**Sunday, June 22, 2025**

## **A Statement from the Board of Elders of New Life Church On the Departure of Brady Boyd**

When Brady Boyd accepted the call to be our Senior Pastor in 2007, our church was deeply indebted and in a crisis of leadership. One hundred days into his tenure, senseless violence erupted on our campus in the form of an active shooter. Brady's steady hand of leadership helped our church through extremely dark times and into a long season of peace. He spearheaded significant initiatives to the underserved in our city and around the world. Brady has also been faithful to his family. We love and thank God for the Boyd family and for Brady's service to New Life Church.

On June 18, 2025, Brady resigned as Senior Pastor of New Life Church. Daniel Grothe will step into the role of Senior Pastor, a transition in leadership that was approved by the elders last year and had already begun internally with the staff.

### **Background of Brady's Departure**

In 2007, when New Life's pastoral search committee was considering Brady for Senior Pastor, the committee was made aware of details regarding Robert Morris' sexual abuse of Cindy Clemishire, which began in 1982 when she was 12 years old and Morris was 20 or 21. Morris was, from 2000 to 2024, Senior Pastor of Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas, and Brady served there from 2001 to 2007.

To report what they had heard and inquire further regarding the allegations of abuse, New Life representatives contacted the Board of Elders of Gateway. Our church was informed that Morris' past abuse was known to Ms. Clemishire's family, Gateway elders, news media, and legal counsel. Gateway also informed New Life that Morris had been through a restoration process and, inaccurately, that Ms. Clemishire and her parents had supported Morris' return to ministry.

Based on that information, New Life believed that Ms. Clemishire's abuse was known by the relevant persons and the search committee concluded that Morris' conduct from 25 years earlier, while terrible, did not involve Brady and did not impair his fitness to serve as our Senior Pastor. The search committee recommended Brady for the role and New Life Church welcomed him in August 2007.

Recently, Brady has insisted that he was unaware until 2024 that Ms. Clemishire was 12 at the time that Morris abused her in the 1980s. We believe that to be inaccurate. Brady also made statements in his public address to the congregation on June 8 that the Board of Elders knows to be inaccurate.

Brady had nothing at all to do with Robert Morris' past abuse. Still, we believe that trust is the currency of leadership. When Brady recently told our congregation, inaccurately, that he was unaware of certain details regarding Morris' past abuse, trust was broken, and we, the Board of Elders, asked Brady to resign.

### **The Way Forward**

This is a time of mixed emotions. We are grieving as a church. We are grateful for Brady's service, we pray for justice and healing for Ms. Clemishire, and we deeply regret our association with Robert Morris. At the same time, we are filled with hope for the future and believe God will continue to do great things at New Life Church. Most intensely, we long for a world of justice and peace, a world where God's Kingdom comes, "on earth as it is in heaven."