

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What happened?**

John McKinzie confessed to church leadership about sexual sin and moral failure. Since this behavior disqualifies him from serving as Lead Pastor, he has resigned from Hope Fellowship.

### **2. Why did John step down?**

After confessing his moral failure, John is no longer qualified to serve in pastoral leadership.

### **3. What does “moral failure” mean?**

We recognize that this phrase may feel vague. Out of respect for the privacy of those involved, we will not share specific details. We can say that John admitted to sexual sin and to a pattern of consensual behavior that made him unfit to continue in his role as pastor.

### **4. How are John and his family doing?**

They are deeply grieved. We are walking with them during this difficult experience. We ask that you extend them grace, pray for them, and respect their privacy in this difficult season.

### **5. How will this affect Hope Fellowship?**

Though this is a painful moment, our church's foundation has never been one man. It has always been Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Our mission continues. Our leadership team will continue the work of the church.

### **6. Who will be leading the church now?**

The Directional Leadership Team, Board, Elders and Pastoral Lead Team will provide leadership during this transition. Preaching and teaching will be shared among our pastors and guest teachers as we seek God's direction for long-term leadership.

### **7. How can I get support if I'm struggling with this news?**

We know this brings up many emotions—sorrow, confusion, anger, or even a struggle with faith. Our pastors and staff are here to meet with you, pray with you, and listen. You may also email [leadership@hopefellowship.net](mailto:leadership@hopefellowship.net) for direct communication.

### **8. How will the church make sure this doesn't happen again?**

We are committed to accountability, transparency, and healthy leadership practices. Our board and elders are reviewing policies and structures to strengthen safeguards for integrity and accountability.

### **9. Can John ever return to leadership at Hope Fellowship?**

Restoration to Christ is always possible, and we are walking with John toward that end. However, John's behavior was a disqualification for a restoration to pastoral leadership at Hope.