

March 21, 2024

Dear Anchor Youth Parents,

In an email from Kyle Layfield last week, you heard that we had suspended all our youth events for the time being. We are happy to tell you that the elders have worked with a group of Anchor parents and others to keep our youth ministry up and running. As announced in church last Sunday, we had Sunday School for all youth that morning, and it will continue. Also, we will provide the Wednesday evening Bible study for our youth week by week. In addition, our youth ministry volunteers will work to provide as full a program for our students as they can, including the fun activities, get-togethers, and events our kids are accustomed to.

We know that many of our teens love the regional youth rallies at which they can be built up and encouraged spiritually, as well as see their friends from other churches. One of those rallies is happening at Clarence Church of Christ in the Buffalo suburb of Clarence this Friday evening into Saturday, and we are sending a group. (At least four adults, male and female, have agreed to go on the trip as chaperones.) If you would like your teen to go with our group, contact Tim Ribis at 585-233-3575 or [bowbender6@gmail.com](mailto:bowbender6@gmail.com). He will be glad to give you all the details about cost, planned departure and return times, etc.

We appreciate our volunteers' willing service on behalf of our young people. Would you please pray for them and our youth in this time of transition?

This of course brings up the questions that many of you have about Kyle's resignation that was announced Sunday morning. We want to provide some context surrounding that resignation, to the extent that we are able to do so at this time.

Based on specific written allegations that the elders recently received, we commissioned the law firm of McConville Considine Cooman and Morin PC to conduct an investigation of those allegations. The purpose of an outside investigation was twofold. It has allowed Anchor to have: (1) an objective perspective on the facts, based on interviews the attorneys conducted and their analysis of written submissions; and (2) the benefit of legal expertise and advice to the extent it is needed. The goal of the investigation has been to determine what, if any, disciplinary action Anchor itself needed to take with respect to members of its staff or lay leaders. The investigation was undertaken solely on behalf of Anchor as a church body, and not on behalf of any individuals.

In the course of that investigation, Kyle Layfield acknowledged certain failures on his part to comply with important ACC policies that are meant to protect him against allegations of misconduct. His policy violations were of such significance that his termination was likely, and faced with that fact, he chose to resign. We accepted his resignation.

The investigation did result in additional allegations against other individuals, which legal counsel may, or may not, continue to explore. Some parties involved in making various allegations of past misconduct have chosen to pursue or defend those matters on their own with law enforcement or by other means. It is not the place of Anchor as a church

body to pursue claims or accusations as proxy on behalf of some of its current or former congregants against other congregants. Legal counsel has advised us that further speculation and probing, or passing of rumors by Anchor members about sharply conflicting accusations is inappropriate. Such actions can cause unwarranted damage to personal reputations and result in legal liability for those involved. Please know that if there are any other actions or outcomes from the investigation that do warrant public disclosure, we will communicate them.

With Kyle's departure as Youth Minister, it is more important than ever that we keep our focus on the young people who are naturally confused, discouraged, angry, and sad. We can help them by letting them express their feelings, assuring them of a hopeful future, and modeling Christlike words, attitudes, and actions before them. Toward that end, we are praying for you and for them, as we hope that you will be praying for us.

Thank you,  
Chris Bacus and the Elders of Anchor Christian Church