

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:

Statement of Legacy Church, Inc. Regarding Lawsuit Allegations

Effective Date: December 11, 2024

On December 2, 2024, a lawsuit containing numerous unproven and specious allegations was filed by “Jane Doe 1” against Steelbridge Ministries and Legacy Church, Inc., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court of Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Further, on December 3, 2024, legal counsel for Jane Doe 1 issued a Press Release asserting, as fact, these baseless allegations and additional false and defamatory statements.

Legacy Church adamantly denies the allegations in the lawsuit and Press Release and will vigorously defend itself against these false assertions.

The evidence will show that Steelbridge Ministries and Legacy Church are separate nonprofit entities formed in New Mexico and that each has been separately conferred Section 501(3)(c) tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code. The two organizations do not operate under a common leadership, have separate Board Members (with one exception) and conduct operations separate and apart from each other in terms of personnel, governance, policies and financial administration. In particular, Steelbridge Ministries employees are not on the Legacy Church payroll. Further, Travis Clark is not, and has never been, an employee of Legacy Church nor has he served as a member of the pastoral staff of Legacy.

As part of its ministry, Legacy Church does provide financial and in-kind support to various other ministries. Steelbridge Ministries is but one of many of such organizations.

It is Legacy Church’s understanding that Steelbridge Ministries conducted its own investigation of the events which form the basis of the lawsuit and came to a conclusion that Jane Doe 1’s assertions were unfounded. Moreover, the facts will show that at the time of Mr. Clark’s hiring in January 2019 (long before the Legacy ministry became a financial supporter of Steelbridge), Steelbridge Ministries conducted a criminal background check which came back with no matters of concern. It is Legacy Church’s understanding that two additional criminal background checks were conducted on Mr. Clark over the course of his association with Steelbridge Ministries, and that both revealed nothing that would implicate a risk to the health, safety and well-being of the program participants (i.e., indicating “No Record”).

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In 2021, the Albuquerque Police Department conducted a police investigation into Mr. Clark over this matter and ultimately forwarded its investigative report to the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office. The fact remains that the District Attorney's Office has not brought any criminal charges against Mr. Clark.

The contrast between the actual record and the allegations asserted in the lawsuit, related Press Release and public statements of Jane Doe 1's attorneys is significant and stark. There is no merit to the lawsuit much less the public statements made by Plaintiff's legal counsel.

We have directed our legal counsel to take definitive legal action against Jane Doe 1's legal counsel, members of the media who have negligently republished the false and defaming statements in the public record as well as other defamatory statements made by certain members of the media on social media and in other forums.

All questions regarding the matter which involve Legacy Church should be directed to:

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