



Dear Bellevue Baptist Family,

At the June 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), messengers, representing over 50,000 SBC churches, having concerns over questions related to the alleged mishandling of sex abuse allegations within the SBC, overwhelmingly voted to create a Sexual Abuse Task Force (SATF) and authorized an independent investigation by Guidepost Solutions.

This investigation was for the purpose of evaluating the response, or lack of response, and the handling, or mishandling, of sex abuse allegations by the Executive Committee of the denomination and to produce a report on their findings. It was the expressed will of the SBC messengers to thoroughly investigate and address procedural concerns.

This report of the SATF that was the result of the independent investigation was made public on May 22, 2022. Here is a link to this report...

<https://www.sataskforce.net/updates/guidepost-solutions-report-of-the-independent-investigation>

As Southern Baptists everywhere, we are disturbed by reports of the mishandling of issues of sexual abuse within the SBC. We pray for those who over the years were victims and survivors of abuse in our denomination and are heartbroken for those who have suffered. We want Southern Baptist churches to be safe places for people to grow in faith and community.

We are encouraged that the overwhelming majority of messengers at the 2021 Annual Meeting, along with our own Bellevue voting messengers, showed firm resolve to thoroughly investigate and respond to these issues. We believe it was the right thing to do.

When concerns arise on a denominational level, it can be helpful to be clear on our own local church commitments to doing things rightly.

Bellevue resolves to be a safe place for all men, women, boys, and girls who participate in our church ministries.

*With this in mind, we want you to be assured of the following...*

1. Bellevue has for decades been committed to follow protocols for background checks of our children/youth ministry volunteers and mandate two-person rules in our children/youth ministries. For several years we have provided professional security, particularly at peak times of ministry.
2. Our church voted last year to install security cameras throughout the church facility. This has been a work in progress due to national supply issues with the camera technology industry, but as we have been able to secure cameras, we have been installing them. When we secure all the cameras we intend to purchase, the entire building will be covered with this technology.
3. The leadership of Bellevue resolves and commits to take any allegations of sexual abuse seriously and to treat those reporting abuse with care and concern. We will have a zero-tolerance approach to sexual abuse. In addition, we will make it a practice to review and when needed update our policies to make sure we are continually providing a safe place for those participating in our ministries.
4. We will pray for God to strengthen and sustain men and women committed to the Lord, here at Bellevue and in the larger SBC family, to boldly seek to prevent, expose, and address the great wrong of sexual abuse.

Let us all work together to build churches that provide safe environments where people can come to know the love of Christ and the care of a godly community.

Sincerely,

The Pastors, Staff, and Deacon Officers of the Bellevue Baptist Church