

Regarding Gordon Christopher

It is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the March 10 resignation of Gordon Christopher, our Minister of Music.

The need for the resignation is tragic because it involves a moral failure. But, we applaud Gordon for dealing forthrightly with the legal authorities and the church. He did not try to excuse, avoid, or justify. He immediately admitted to his failure in both the legal and church venues.

Gordon poured 26+ years of his life into the Lord's ministry through First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix. We will not try to white-wash the events of March 9 and 10. But, we also will not be embarrassed or ashamed of looking back and celebrating his life, his friendship, and his ministry.

We do not yet know all that the future holds for Gordon and his family. We do know that we will do our very best to walk with him and his family through this personal and professional tragedy. We also know that the Christopher family will always have a home here with the "First Family."