

Minnesota – Iowa Ministry Rejects CSA Policy

The below letter was recently sent from the MN/IA staff. The following document includes the “Statement of Purpose” and resources.

The Statement of Purpose claims that “We have found the New Testament instructions to the Lord’s people to be a perfect code of conduct, if faithfully applied.”

WINGS is not aware of any New Testament instructions specifically about prevention of, or responding to, child sexual abuse. The workers and overseers history of failure to prevent, or respond properly to Child Sexual Abuse, suggests that application of man’s interpretation of selected bible verses is not an adequate basis for dealing with Child Sexual Abuse.

The overseer of this region is Titus Lehman.

Dear Iowa and Minnesota friends,

We appreciated our convention season again this year. The helpers who were sent brought us bread for our souls and it was special to have time together. We are encouraged again to sow the seed and do what we can in our fields. We appreciate everyone who was a part of our conventions, including those who were not able for whatever reason, and listened on the conference call. We keep in our hearts those who chose not to attend. We respect your choice knowing the reasons vary greatly. We do care about you all!

Most of you have received the new workers list by now. Many of us are headed to new areas of labor and are looking forward to getting gospel meetings going again and getting acquainted with new people and places. We are glad for open homes and we also respect any who have reservations about who enters their homes. Please, feel free to help us know how you feel about having company.

LaVerna has moved into an apartment in Pella and has been busy reaching out to the folks who are her new neighbors there. We certainly wish her the best. It’s a big adjustment, no doubt.

David leaves November 18th and returns February 18th for conventions in India, Bangladesh, Dubai, and a few other spots. We will enjoy following along. Dean and Kyle are going to Manitoba/Saskatchewan for the special meeting rounds. They will be away from the end of November through December.

Much time and effort has been spent searching out, reviewing, and exploring what our staff and fellowship’s responsibility is in regards to CSA/SA. Thank you for your patience in this process.

In May of 2023 a policy was written for immediate needs. It helped us at the time with situations which arose. Since then we realize it just doesn’t apply to and cover every situation. We have chosen to discontinue its use and dependence on it.

Last year a group of workers and friends explored the possibility of a policy for our fellowship. We contracted with the GRACE group, which has been helpful for other organizations. They provided a policy draft in December. After reviewing this draft, we found it did not meet the needs of or rightly represent our fellowship. Above all, with prayerful consideration, it was clear the Lord was not giving peace with these efforts. In respect to God, we have discontinued working with GRACE group for policy development. The time spent with them was not wasted as we learned much helpful information about these subjects.

All of us are more educated, aware of the impact of CSA, and alert to inappropriate behavior. It is imperative to move forward in that understanding. We would like to share our simple statement of purpose. It is attached to this email. Also attached is a document with resources and reporting information.

The Minnesota and Iowa Staff