



Statement of Conowingo Baptist Church
Response to: Richard Henderson Accusations

We at Conowingo Baptist Church (CBC) do not condone or endorse the actions that lead to the recent criminal conviction and incarceration of Mr. Richard Henderson. None of the accusations against Mr. Henderson took place on the premises of CBC nor did they occur at any CBC sanctioned event. Additionally, no other member or regular attendee of CBC was involved.

CBC leadership was made aware of the allegations against Mr. Henderson at the same time as the public - upon Mr. Henderson's arrest in late December 2022. Immediately after his arrest, the congregation was informed and asked to pray for all involved. Mr. Henderson had already, some months prior, quietly stopped participating in CBC-related activities and worship services in anticipation of the impending criminal case against himself. A foundational principle of our federal justice system is that all parties are considered innocent until proven guilty and Mr. Henderson has been treated in accordance with this principle by CBC. CBC leadership followed the criminal case as closely as the public record allowed and, once Mr. Henderson was convicted and formally sentenced to jail, removed the only remaining position he held with CBC, an inactive deaconship.

All CBC members involved with the children's ministries or hold leadership positions must pass a comprehensive background check and complete annual child safety training. These requirements exist to provide and maintain a safe, protected environment for all young people at CBC.

CBC asks for continued prayer for all involved as they navigate this difficult period. Our calling as Christian believers is to demonstrate the love, grace and mercy of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, to everyone regardless of *circumstance*.

Prayerfully,
Conowingo Baptist Church Leadership

Proverbs 3: 5-7

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.[1]

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.