

Mark Driscoll's Books Yanked From Baptist's LifeWay Stores

The nation's second-largest Christian book retailer has pulled megachurch pastor Mark Driscoll's books from its website and 186 stores.

Leaders at the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Christian Resources informed stores on Friday to stop selling books by the Seattle pastor who has been in hot water.

Last week, leaders of the church-planting network Acts 29 removed Driscoll and his churches from the group he helped found and asked that he "step down from ministry for an extended time and seek help."

Driscoll has been an influential but edgy pastor within conservative evangelical circles for several years. His Mars Hill Church, based in Seattle, attracts some 14,000 people at 15 locations across five states. He has been provocative, occasionally profane and has faced allegations of plagiarism and inflating book sales.

The mushrooming set of allegations led the publishing arm to suspend sales while it "monitors the developments of his ministry," said LifeWay media-relations manager Marty King.

"It was a cumulative effect," King said. "The Acts 29 leadership asking him to step down was certainly a part of that."

At the time of the decision, LifeWay's stores were selling just one of Driscoll's titles, *A Call to Resurgence*, King said.

A spokesperson for Mars Hill did not respond to LifeWay's decision.

Driscoll recently admitted to and apologized for crude comments he made about feminism, homosexuality and “sensitive emasculated” men on an online discussion forum under the pseudonym “William Wallace II.”

Blogger Warren Throckmorton, who broke the news, has also reported allegations from former ministers that Driscoll publicly asked their wives about their favorite sexual position.

Acts 29’s decision was unusual because ministries usually leave matters of church discipline up to local churches. But a letter from Acts 29’s board suggested that it could not lean on Mars Hill’s own board to discipline Driscoll. The Acts 29 statement came after evangelical leaders Paul Tripp and James MacDonald resigned as members of the church governing board.

In 2012, LifeWay halted sales of a breast-cancer awareness Bible tied to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation, an organization that has drawn controversy for its partnership with Planned Parenthood. The same year, it pulled *The Blind Side* from shelves after complaints over the film’s profanity and use of a racial slur.

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