

Pastor Rallies for Eddie Long to Step Down

This weekend a South Carolina pastor held a rally on the steps of the Georgia Capitol calling for Bishop Eddie Long to step down until the investigation into allegations that he used his influence and money to coerce young men into sexual relationships were proved false.

Bishop H. "Prophet" Walker of True Light Pentecost Church in Spartanburg, S.C., told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that Long "had no right to continue as a leader of the Christian church." During the rally, Walker emphasized that he has no authority over Long but that members of Long's church New Birth Missionary Baptist in Lithonia, Ga., should force him to step down. "They have to understand that this is their church, not Bishop Long's," Walker said.

About 75 people, most of them part of Walker's church, attended the rally. Members of the South Carolina Tea Party were also represented. Michael Brady of the Boiling Springs Tea Party said: "We believe that Christians need to stand up for wrong." He said that the allegations are a "crime against the community, and a crime against humanity, and Christians have to stand up against that."

Walker says he plans to host other rallies across the country until Long steps down. "We're not going to stop," he said.

Neither Long nor his representative commented about the event, but Long has denied the allegations of sexual misconduct through his spokesman. He continues to speak at his church.