

Top of the Week: Hillsong Pastor, Co-Founder Brian Houston Resigns After Revelations of Indiscretions With Women

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Hillsong Pastor, Co-Founder Brian Houston Resigns After Revelations of Indiscretions With Women

Less than a week after the Hillsong board released a statement revealing its cofounder, Brian Houston, had sent inappropriate text messages to a staff member and spent time in a woman's hotel room, the board of the global megachurch has announced the longtime global senior pastor has resigned.

In a statement posted on its website Wednesday (March 23), the board said it had accepted Houston's resignation and acknowledged "there will be much emotion at this news."

Houston, 68, a New Zealand native, founded Hillsong Church with his wife Bobbie in the suburbs of Sydney in 1983. The Pentecostal powerhouse now boasts 30 locations around the world, with an average global attendance of 150,000 weekly. Hillsong's music program has produced some of the most popular worship songs used in evangelical churches around the world, including "Oceans," "What a Beautiful Name," and "Shout to the Lord."

Hillsong Atlanta Founding Pastor Sam Collier Resigns Amid Global Church Scandals

Amid the shock of Hillsong Church's co-founder Brian Houston's resignation over allegations of indiscretions with women,

another Hillsong senior pastor has resigned—but with no similar claims against him. Pastor Sam Collier, 33, who launched Hillsong Atlanta less than a year ago as the global megachurch's first Black senior pastor, announced his resignation via an Instagram post.

Collier, the founder of A Greater Story Ministries, notes, “with all of the documentaries, scandals, articles, accusations and the church's subsequent management of these attacks it's become too difficult to lead and grow a young Church in this environment.”