

Mark Driscoll Opening New Church in Building 'God Supernaturally Provided'

Controversial former Mars Hill Church Pastor Mark Driscoll plans to launch his new church on Easter Sunday (March 27).

The Trinity Church will host its first gathering that evening at the Glass and Garden Drive-In Church in Scottsdale, Arizona, the new church announced on its website.

The website described the gathering as a "modest open house and prayer meeting" where Driscoll will share the vision for the church as it begins putting together its launch team.

"We know that God has gone before us, preparing an opportunity to minister. This building provides a wonderful opportunity for our mission," it said.

Driscoll announced last month that he and his family had moved to Phoenix, where they were "healing up" and planning to launch The Trinity Church.

He had spent months praying for a church building with more than 1,000 seats along the 101 Freeway, according to the church website, and he "believes that God has supernaturally provided" that in the Glass and Garden Drive-In Church building. The church had launched on Easter 1966, it said.

Its drive-in theater since has closed.

The launch comes a month after a lawsuit was filed against Driscoll and former Mars Hill executive elder John Sutton Turner by four members of the now-defunct Seattle church, accusing them of "a continuing pattern of racketeering activity." The suit claims the two solicited donations for specific purposes and then used that money for other things.

Driscoll resigned from Mars Hill in October 2014 amid allegations of plagiarism and abusive behavior, as well as outcry over critical comments he had made earlier about feminism and homosexuality under a pseudonym on a church message board. The church's 15 campuses closed that December.

The pastor has called the allegations in the lawsuit "false and malicious."

"I remain focused and devoted to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, loving others and praying for my enemies," Driscoll told *RNS*.

© 2016 Religion News Service. All rights reserved.