

Statement from Newington Baptist Church leaders on the conviction of Bob Hinson  
6<sup>th</sup> of May, 2025

The safety of every child who attends or visits Newington Baptist Church (NBC) is extremely important to us. We have had a very robust child protection policy in place for many years, and we review it regularly to make sure we are doing our best to keep children safe. Our child protection measures include:

- Background checks for all children's ministry workers, with re-checks every 3 years.
- Regular child safety training for all children's ministry workers.
- Minimum 2 adult coverage for every classroom.
- Windows in the doors of every classroom
- Workers are never permitted to be alone with a child in a closed bathroom.
- Detailed reporting policy for any allegations of abuse or harm.

As to the particulars of the charges against Bob Hinson, the leadership of NBC first became aware of them in September of 2024. Bob was removed from all leadership positions at that time. We reviewed all positions that Bob held over the years, with particular focus on access to children and youth. There is no evidence or even allegations that any children were harmed or at risk of harm while at NBC. Had any such incidents been discovered, we would have reported them to the authorities with full cooperation.

We informed the membership of the church of the situation through written communication and open discussions, including one Sunday morning following the regular worship service in September 2024. At that time, we asked our members not to discuss this issue on social media out of respect for the ongoing judicial process. We encouraged our members to bring all questions or concerns to church leadership for open and honest discussion. We continue to encourage our members to refrain from discussing this on social media. The conversations on these platforms too frequently devolve into arguments and gossip, with little regard for truth, honesty, and harmony. The leadership remains open to discussion of concerns with members, former members, and attendees of NBC.

We believe in the dual roles of civic and spiritual accountability for these crimes. We respect the judicial process and its conclusions. There is a single victim, with the crimes occurring over 20 years ago. The verdict and sentence were reached with the agreement of the victim. *Calls for additional vigilante or mob justice will not make our community safer, and will not bring healing for the victim.* We believe that God makes forgiveness, healing, and restoration available to all who humbly seek it. We continue pray for the victim, Bob, and all the family and friends affected by this, and we renew our commitment to keeping the children of NBC safe.