



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are heartbroken to be informed that former District President Michael Mohr was arrested and charged with the crime of the production of child pornography. A charge set forth in a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and does not constitute proof of guilt. Every defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty. However, these charges are incredibly grave. The Lord hears the sound of our weeping. These things should not happen. We pray the Lord of all comfort and mercy attend to all who may be hurt and affected.

Michael Mohr was a regular attendee, group leader, and teacher at our conferences. He was present among the youth in attendance. It is Higher Things policy that all adults and chaperones (registrants age 21+) registered to attend a Higher Things conference must pass a national criminal and sexual predator background check annually. At the moment there have been no allegations of misconduct against Michael Mohr at our events. However, the investigation is still ongoing. Higher Things takes those allegations seriously and will cooperate with any request we receive from law enforcement and other appropriate authorities. Higher Things will always remain focused on the care and safety of the youth and young adults we serve.

If you or a loved one have something to report in regard to this matter, please contact FBI St. Louis, Special Agent Trevor Welter at 314-589-2500.

The LCMS Central Illinois District has established a special resource to receive reports from any individual who may have experienced harm, by calling: 877-276-1740 or email at districtassistance@cidlcms.org. These channels are being monitored by Ms. Rebekah Wendling, a mental health professional.

You are also encouraged to contact law enforcement, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)). Higher Things also encourages you to speak to your local pastor.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory (Matthew 12:20).

Rev. Harrison Goodman – Executive Director of Mission and Theology

Crysten Sanchez – Executive Director of Operations

Patrick Sturdivant – Executive Director of Relations

The Higher Things Board of Directors