

October 11, 2025

Greetings, Mercy Gate Church – Box Elder,

It has come to the attention of the pastoral staff that Canyon Shearer, our former Head Elder, was arrested earlier this week in New Mexico for felony sexual crimes committed on a minor. The case has just begun, and only an arrest and formal charges have been issued to date. Canyon served as the Head Elder of MGBE from April 17, 2022, until July 5, 2024. Canyon and his family moved to New Mexico in July of 2024 and have since transferred their membership (by letter) to First Baptist Church of Dora in Dora, New Mexico, earlier this year.

Please note that there are no allegations or charges regarding Canyon's time at MGBE, and he underwent a thorough background check while serving at MGBE. Additionally, he was never alone with any children at the church (except his own) during his tenure at MGBE. The pastoral staff will maintain close communication with the legal proceedings in New Mexico and will keep the church updated as necessary.

I know this is hard on several of us, including myself. Please be in prayer for all the affected parties in this situation and pray that Jesus may be glorified in and through it. Remember, God does not cause sin in this world, but He will intercede and make good from the worst of situations for His glory (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28).

Lastly, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any other pastor or person in leadership for counseling, prayer, or if you have more questions regarding this situation.

In Christ,

Pastor Andy Daniel