

## LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM DUSTIN PENNINGTON

To the GateCity Family,

On March 29th, 2026, information was brought to my attention that caused me to revisit and reexamine a portion of my pastoral history with fresh clarity and sobriety.

In doing so, I was reminded of a meeting in 2011 that I had not carried in active memory. In that meeting, serious allegations of sexual misconduct involving minors were shared with me regarding a volunteer in our church, Cornerstone Assembly of God. At the time, I did not give those concerns the weight and discernment they required and did not pursue them as I should have.

I was aware that this individual had some moral struggles in previous years and had walked through a process of restoration, which contributed to my misplaced confidence in him.

In 2012, this individual engaged in sexual misconduct involving a young adult in our church. At the time, I did not connect this incident with the earlier allegations from 2011. The individual was removed from ministry responsibilities at Cornerstone Assembly of God, and I addressed the situation based on what I understood at the time.

In 2017, information came to light that clarified for me the seriousness of the earlier concerns. I took immediate action to address what was then known.

Until March 29th, I had come to a place of relative peace regarding how everything had unfolded. However, upon being reminded of that 2011 meeting, the full weight of the situation became clear to me.

I recognize that I failed to respond to serious allegations and failed to connect critical information over time. This represents a significant lapse in judgment in a role that carries deep trust and responsibility. For this, I am deeply sorry especially to those who were directly impacted by my failure to act.

After prayer, counsel, and careful consideration, I believe that it is right for me to step down from serving as the Lead Pastor of GateCity Lawrenceville. This decision is my own.

Michelle and I are heartbroken. This church has been our life, our calling, and one of our greatest joys. To step away from it in this way is deeply painful.

I grieve the pain this brings to those who were affected and to this church family. You deserve leadership that exercises the highest level of discernment and care, and I acknowledge that I fell short of the standard required for pastoral leadership.

I want you to know that I love you. I love this house. And I have deep confidence in the leadership of GateCity. I believe the Lord will continue to guide and strengthen this church, and that you will move forward into all that He has for you.

With love and sincerity,

Dustin Pennington