

Global Leadership Summit (GLS) Update

For the last decade WRCC has participated in the Global Leadership Summit – it has been an invaluable tool to train both leaders in the local church and also in the secular market place. It has been a breath of fresh air to leaders globally by inspiring vision and also offering practical skills that can be immediately applied in most every organization. As a local pastor, I have seen our congregation and our community benefit from:

- Networking opportunities with other church and civic leaders from our community
- An affordable conference that more individuals can enjoy and benefit from because of the reduced cost and time spent on travel
- Growth opportunities that has become a shared experience for our leadership team (both pastoral and within our lay volunteers)

In the last few weeks you have possibly read about the the resignation of Bill Hybels as Lead Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. There are allegations of inappropriate behavior with women, including lingering hugs, suggestive comments and more, brought by former staff members, followed by investigations and much discussion. Once again, this has all played out on a public stage, which has been extremely painful to watch. The elders of WRCC (that includes myself) are deeply troubled by these allegations and heart-broken for those families and God's church that have been so negative impacted. *In no way do we condone such alleged actions.* As a leadership team we ask that you join us in praying for anyone who may have been hurt to feel empowered and heard, and for anyone wrongly accused to be vindicated, and for healing and unity within the Body of Christ that has potentially been wounded.

So, this is where we find ourselves as stewards and overseers of God's church. First, we confess we simply don't know all there is to know in this situation. We believe our best posture in such matters is to say less and pray more. Please join us in praying that God will reveal the truth and that the damaging impact to God's kingdom and the witness of our Lord Jesus would be minimal. Second, we have prayerfully considered what's best for God's church here at 1685 N. 10th St. and have decided to continue hosting the GLS. After researching this matter more closely we have learned from the Willow Creek Association (WCA) that,

“... the Summit has never been about one person or group of persons—it's about the mission to energize Christians and mobilize churches globally by growing their leadership skill and commitment to maximize Kingdom impact. This is not a Bill Hybels summit—it's a global leadership summit and we hope people who believe in leadership development for Christian leaders will feel comfortable being part of this movement.”

In closing, please be careful – *all of us (me included) are vulnerable to Satan and his schemes to “kill, steal, and destroy.”* Avoid any appearance of evil, refusing to let yourself be put in a situation that would tempt you or give another person the wrong idea.

Grace and peace – Timothy Brock and the Elders of WRCC