

***Pastor Joe Donohue Fired As Pastor Of ROC:
Asking Too Many Questions About Pastor
Geronimo Aguilar Rape Case While Pastor
Geronimo Aguilar Awaits Trial On Molestation
Charges: The New Pastor Has Just Been Fired***



The ROC church remains in turmoil under the weight of a pending Rape Case in Texas against former Pastor Geronimo Aguilar. To add to the mass confusion at ROC the new Pastor has just been fired without the courtesy of an exit interview.

Pastor Joe Donohue took over as New Pastor of ROC, but had no idea how far reaching the criminal investigation really was, and apparently church leaders concealed a few of the facts surrounding Pastor Aguiliar's rape charges.

As confirmed by TimesDispatch.com

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One year after its founder, Geronimo Aguilar, was arrested on charges of sexually assaulting two girls in Texas, the Richmond Outreach Center has lost another senior pastor.

Joe Donohue, who was named the South Richmond megachurch's senior pastor March 29, was removed from the post last week. His last day was Saturday.

The pastor's abrupt departure comes as prosecutors in Texas are preparing their case against Aguilar.

"More than 45,000 cases are handled each year in Tarrant County and cases involving defendants who are currently in custody usually take precedence on trial dockets. A year's delay in scheduling a trial date is not uncommon," said Christy Jack, deputy chief district attorney in the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office. "That being said, the prosecutorial team has traveled to Virginia, California and Tennessee in anticipation of this trial. We welcome the opportunity to give him his day in court and we stand ready to bring Geronimo Aguilar to justice."

Why Donohue, a highly regarded pastor and author, was removed after less than two months on the job remained unclear Tuesday – even to Donohue.

He said in a statement issued Tuesday evening that "the city of Richmond is curious about what has happened. For that matter, so am I!"

"We understood that it would be difficult (a sea of red-flag warnings) but we never anticipated anything like what has occurred since May 22, 2014," he said in the statement. "Despite ongoing encouragement from the board of directors, and without warning, I was terminated. I would have greatly valued a conversation."

Church officials did not respond to email, phone or text message requests for comment, but a woman at the ROC, as the south Richmond church is known, told people calling that he "wasn't the right fit for the church."

Just weeks ago, Donohue was introduced to a raucous Saturday night crowd as “the man God has raised up as the leader of the Richmond Outreach Center and (who) will lead this ministry into the future.”

Donohue was hired in March after a national search that was assisted by Jonathan Falwell, the pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg whom the ROC brought in as a consultant after Aguilar stepped down.

Speaking at the March 29 service at which Donohue was introduced, Falwell talked extensively about how much thought and prayer the ROC’s board of directors had put into finding Aguilar’s replacement.

But Tuesday, a spokesman for Thomas Road Baptist said the church was unaware of what was happening in Richmond. Falwell was not available for comment.

"We were unaware of the whole situation and really have not been asked to assist further," the spokesman said. "It is a local church, and they have their local autonomy. If they called us and wanted us to encourage or minister or something like that, we'd be glad to. But they have not asked us, and we were not aware of their decision."

Donahue was brought in to replace Aguilar, who was arrested May 21, 2013, on charges that he abused an 11-year-old girl and her 13-year-old sister in the 1990s in Tarrant County. He resigned in June.

Aguilar has been indicted in two cases - one for each of the sisters - on four counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14, three counts of sexual assault of a child under 17, and five counts of indecency with a child.

The aggravated sexual assault charges are first-degree felonies that carry a maximum term of life in prison. The remaining charges are second-degree felonies with a maximum sentence of 20 years each.

Aguilar’s next hearing is set for June 20. A trial date has not been set.