The ROC changes its name, announces new church pastor

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RICHMOND, Va. — The ROC has a new name. The Board of Directors of the Richmond Outreach Center announced Friday it has changed the South Richmond's church name to Celebration Church and Outreach Ministry. In addition to the name change, the church has a new leader. Dr. Robert Rhoden was named the church's Transitional Pastor.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Rhoden serve as the Transitional Pastor of our church," David Lynn, Chairman of the Board, said. "Dr. Rhoden has the integrity, experience and faith to lead our church and make a lasting difference in Richmond for generations to come. His heart to empower the needy and strengthen the hearts of the membership has touched us deeply. We are honored to have him on board."

Rhoden was previously a leader at the Assemblies of God and, according to church leaders, and has a history of mentoring young ministers and helping churches during difficult times of transition.

"In many respects I feel as though I have come full circle in life," Dr. Rhoden said. "During my early years I ministered in the city with Teen Challenge, and now am returning to my passion of serving the people in the city of Richmond. I am confident that with God's help, we will reach our city, providing and empowering the people – physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Celebration Church and Outreach Ministry is in the midst of a difficult transition.

Former ROC pastor Geronimo Aguilar was indicted in Texas last year where he was accused of sex crimes against two girls. Aguilar is scheduled to go on trial on Monday, June 15. In April, Aguilar's lawyer filed a motion to have the charges against his client dismissed.

"He's not working anymore in the clergy field at this point and time as our request of him," attorney David Carlson said in April. "He's just anxious for

his day in court to come and for this matter to be behind him once and for all."