

# Statement In Support of Tony Jones - Doug Pagitt

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Statement offered in response to the questions raised by the #WhyTony hashtag.

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A number of years ago I made a decision to not engage in public online forums or blog comments in regards to criticism about me or others. I have worked hard in my 27 years as a pastor and public figure to seek reconciliation and healing in every relationship where I am able.

It is with a heavy-heart and saddened-spirit that I make this public statement about a situation I believe is best handled through mediated counseling.

Over the last seven years Julie McMahon Jones, who was prior to June 2008, for a time part of the community of Solomon's Porch and is the ex-wife of my friend and business partner, Tony Jones, has sought to spread provably false statements and misleading stories about me on the internet and has demanded that I engage with her publicly online about her claims while refusing to engage in any mediated process to address her concerns.

I have not written on any public forum about Julie or her allegations about me as they are without merit and are inappropriate for public comment.

I want to make clear here publicly, as I have personally with Julie, that I have never covered-up anyone's affair or abuse of any kind. This is true in regard to Julie's false claims about her ex-husband or anyone else.

I am making this brief public statement because these false accusations are no longer only directed toward me, but are now being used to attack and damage the reputations of many of my colleagues and ministry associates.

I have pursued professional mediated counseling with Julie, which she has refused to engage in, most recently in late 2014 with mediators of her choosing at the Phoenix Process Consultants.

In many personal and email exchanges with Julie I have tried to respond in caring, supportive and loving ways always desiring her best and continue to be open to any professional mediation process.

I am hopeful that healing and wholeness will be found for all involved and that these false accusations will cease.

Doug Pagitt

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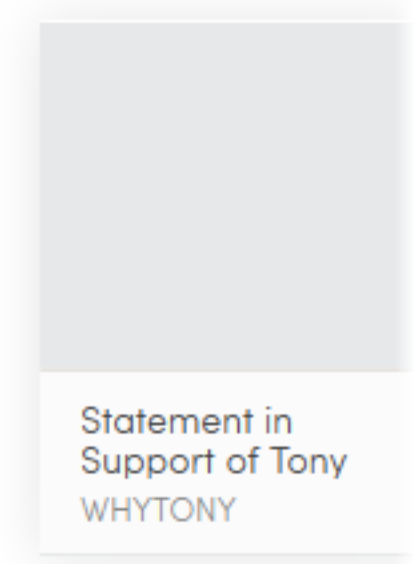
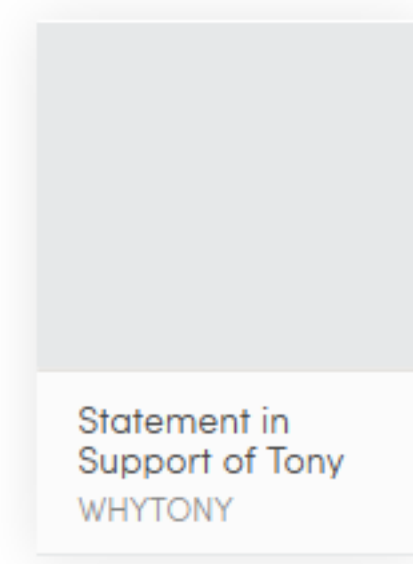
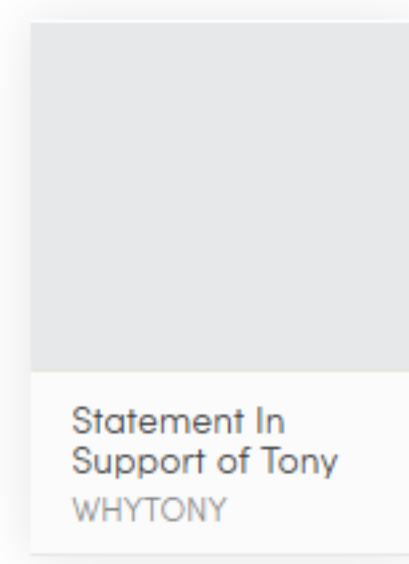
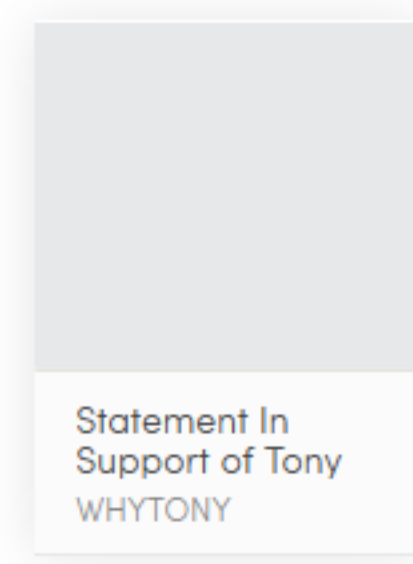
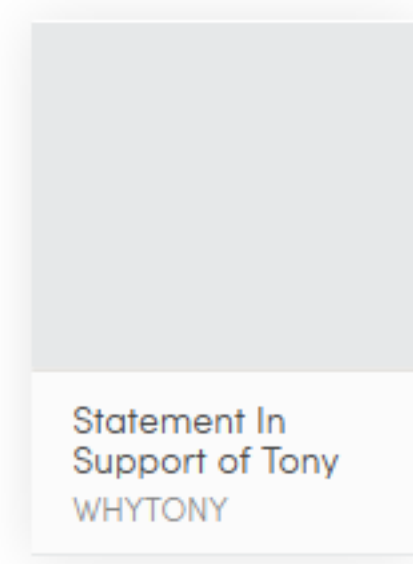
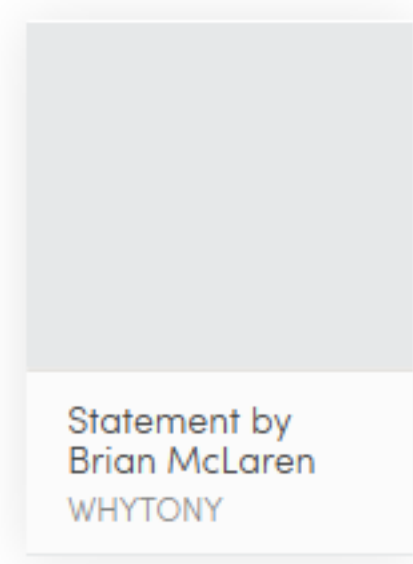
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