Former Iowa pastor faces 13 charges, including sex crimes against child

Charly Haley and Linh Ta, Des Moines Register Published 8:57 p.m. CT Jan. 25, 2017 | **Updated 3:00 p.m. CT Jan. 26, 2017**

(Photo: Special to the Register)

A former Dallas Center pastor was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of sexually assaulting a child multiple times, authorities said.

Randy Johnson, 52, of Dallas Center faces 13 criminal charges. Johnson reportedly perpetrated multiple instances of sexual abuse on the 12- or 13-year-old girl during a year-and-a-half time period from 2013 to 2014, according to court records. The abuse reportedly occurred at a Dallas Center home and, in one instance, at a farm in Grimes.

Johnson was formerly the pastor of Dallas Center Church of the Brethren, said Tim Button-Harrison, district executive for the Northern Plains District Church of the Brethren, which oversees the Dallas Center church.

Button-Harrison declined to say when or how Johnson's employment at the church ceased. On Thursday morning, Johnson was still listed as the church's pastor on its website (http://nplains.org/congregations/dallas-center/).

The Dallas Center congregation has about 30 to 50 members, Button-Harrison said.

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Randy Johnson, formerly the pastor at Dallas Center Church of the Brethren, is accused of sexually abusing a child. He was arrested Jan. 25, 2017. *(Photo: Charly Haley / The Register)*

The church's leaders respect the legal process surrounding the allegations against Johnson, Button-Harrison said, but he declined to comment further.

The Dallas County Sheriff's Office and the Dallas Center Police Department began investigating Johnson in December, according to a sheriff's office news release.

As a result of the investigation, Johnson was arrested without incident on the following charges:

- Three counts of indecent contact with a child, an aggravated misdemeanor
- Two counts of indecent exposure, a serious misdemeanor
- Four counts of sex abuse third-degree, a felony
- One count of lascivious acts with a child, a felony
- Two counts of assault with intent to commit abuse, an aggravated misdemeanor
- One count of child endangerment, an aggravated misdemeanor

Johnson was booked into the Dallas County Jail. He was scheduled to appear in court on Thursday.

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