

I have been a member at Skillman for all of my 64 years and Kathy has been a member since we married in 1987. It has been very painful for us to see the division that is occurring in our congregation today. We love and respect all of our brothers and sisters regardless of their viewpoint on this merger. However, we are totally against joining with The Hills Church for so many reasons.

1. The assurances given by the The Hills to Skillman are virtually meaningless. As they state at the bottom of the page they are non-binding. There is no guarantee that they can revitalize Skillman at our current location and if they fail, they will sell the property and we will still not have a church. They will not give back our assets if they fail. This is an experiment by The Hills with no downside for them. It should be our duty to analyze this further and weigh all options available to our congregation as a whole. A merger with a more like-minded local church would be one option to consider. There are many other options to consider without handing over the keys.
2. This has been a conversation that has been going on for many months, if not years, but the congregation is just now being made aware of it. This has been a problem for Skillman for a long time now. There is weak communication between the elders and the congregation.
3. What is the rush? Let's postpone the vote and have some real discussion between all the members of Skillman to find the best solution.
4. The Hills ideology is also of great concern to us. They have stated on their website that gay people should be counseled to "correct" their sexual identity. However, they have removed this in the past week or so. Maybe it was removed because of this potential merger? We realize everyone has differing opinions, but we are steadfast in our belief that being gay is not a choice. God has created all of us and we don't believe God makes mistakes. As Christians, it is not our mission to make judgments for God. He alone is the ultimate judge. It is our place to love everyone, accept everyone, and bring them all to Christ.

Jesus said: "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day." (Galatians 3:28)

In Christ,
Grant and Kathy Wall