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LaHayes back Huckabee for president

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Liberty University Board of Trustees members Tim and Beverly LaHaye formally endorsed Republican Mike Huckabee for president at Huckabee's Des Moines, Iowa, campaign headquarters on Dec. 4.

The endorsement followed a pastor's policy briefing conference attended by the LaHayes and 60 other religious leaders from Iowa.

Mat Staver, Dean of the School of Law at LU, spoke at the event and was there to witness the endorsement.

"It was a major event in Iowa to have Tim and Beverly there to endorse Mike Huckabee along with 60 other pastors and religious leaders," he said. "I think it reflects the rise in polls in what we're seeing across the country with conservative Christians endorsing Huckabee."

Tim LaHaye, author of the apocalyptic "Left Behind" novels, said during the 25 years he has known Mike Huckabee, "he has proven himself to be a Christian conservative who stands without apology for the pro-life, pro-marriage platform that is so important in this time of moral collapse," according to a news release from the Huckabee campaign.

Beverly LaHaye, founder of Concerned Women of America, said she supports Huckabee "because he is genuinely pro-life — true to Biblical morality — a man of absolute faith in God and courageous enough to try to do something to bring America back to its foundation." Other LU board of trustees members have given their personal endorsement of Huckabee, including the Rev. Jerry Vines.

Staver announced his private endorsement of Huckabee a couple months ago.

"My endorsement is as a private individual but I believe that Mike Huckabee reflects my values closer than any other candidate. I think for some time many people I spoke to also had that same conviction but questioned whether he would be able to win. ... I endorsed him before the rise in the polls because I thought that was the right thing to do."

Staver stressed that these endorsements from Liberty University leaders are made as private individuals and not as representatives of the university.

Staver, who is personally involved with the Huckabee campaign through the Faith and Family Values Coalition, has speaking engagements planned in the three early primary states to address pastors on the social and moral issues of the day, encourage their members to register to vote, and to talk about the permissible activity of churches in regard to political activity.

He said he will focus on “talking about the call of pastors to become the moral conscious of the community.”