

EQUIPPERS

Dear church family,

We made an exciting announcement about the future of our church this last Sunday, when I shared the news that we would be formally starting the process of aligning with the EQUIPPERS movement of churches.

The goal of our church was never just to be an independent church. We started out 17 years ago as part of an apostolic movement. There were some changes in that world, and ever since there has been a yearning in our hearts for the church to be part of an apostolic family again. We have over the years explored many potential alignments but none has seemed to be a fit.

Ps Danny Guglielmucci, a trusted voice into Fusion and who has known of our desire for many years, invited us down to Adelaide to meet Ps Sam Monk who heads up the Equippers movement in July last year. We ended up having lunch with Ps Sam and as we spoke there was something that stirred in our hearts and spirits that we knew we needed to explore.

He invited us to come to their Shout Conference in New Zealand in October, and to stay for a Lead Pastors time afterwards, which Ps Gill and myself did. It was a powerful and life changing time, with many God moments for us personally.

We realised how much we, and our church, had missed being part of a healthy apostolic model and part of a bigger global story. Our church was healthy, but if we were honest our world had become inadvertently small. We knew with certainty that we needed to get to know the Equippers world more. We could see the clear apostolic gift on Ps Sam's life and the fruit of that was everywhere to be seen in the people that we met.

We came back and shared what we were feeling with the Fusion Board, and some outside trusted voices. They could see something had come alive in us and all agreed that we should explore this relationship with Equippers further.

Over the last months as a Board we have intentionally done that, culminating in Ps Sam Monk coming to Fusion at the beginning of February. He spent time with our Board, our leaders and the church. It was an impacting and foundational time, and it was wonderful to see how the church leaned into Ps Sam's ministry over the weekend.

The Board met again last week and made a unanimous decision, after months of prayer and consideration, to formally begin the process of aligning with Equippers.

The best way to describe it is we have become "engaged" and will be preparing for the coming together of our worlds over the next months. We don't have a fixed date as yet, but the middle of the year is a likelihood.

We are convinced that the Holy Spirit is leading us and that this is the best for our "next" as a church. What may seem suddenly to some is not a surprise to Him. God's "suddenlies" often come after seasons of waiting and seeking of God, and we have been doing that consistently over many years.

We are aligned theologically and believe there has been a joining of hearts and spirits. We believe it will open up our world, links us to a bigger story, and secures our ongoing legacy.

There will be some changes but the essence of who we are as a church will not change. In fact before we even knew much about Equippers, Ps Danny said to me of a number of occasions that Fusion felt like an Equippers church. Now I understand what he meant. We started as an apostolic house and this reconnects us with that story and world, and enhances our heart for all nations, generations and cultures.

We are not going anywhere and will continue to lead the team, and our Board will continue to lead and govern locally. Equippers is a movement of locally led autonomous churches in over 17 different nations who have a common heart, vision and values. This is not a take over, there is no central control, we are not joining a denomination. This connects us with a bigger apostolic world to help our church walk into all God has, and opens opportunities for us to also be part of a global story.

We are all going to be stretched in different ways, but we know that God is at work with the future in mind. Isaiah 54:2-3 says "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. 3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities."

This is the scripture God gave us for the 2024 Heart for the House season, but we have come to realise that this was not just about the proposed Hub expansion, but also the bigger story of us becoming part of Equippers. As a result we know it will enlarge, stretch, lengthen and strengthen the church.

We will be working out details over the next months and we will keep you updated. We ask you to pray, to lean in, and to dream with us about the future. Feel free to also come for a cuppa and have a chat with any of our team, or speak to your Small Group leaders.

It is okay to have moments of feeling sentimental about what has been - God has done so much over the years! We know, however, that the end of one season also opens the doorway to an exciting new season that is full of kingdom possibilities and adventures.

We would love as many of you as possible to join us for the annual Equippers Shout Conference happening from 2-4 July 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand. This will be a great environment for you to see the bigger world that we will be part of.

We are expectant for this exciting next chapter God has for our beautiful church.

Much love

Ps Matt & Gill McGaw - Senior Pastors