

Dear West Point and Sarepta Church

Together, our two churches tell of God's wonderful purpose to redeem the earth.

As your pastors, we are continually seeking the Lord's wisdom and guidance as we join Him as He builds His church. Recently, we have felt the pleasure of the Holy Spirit in our togetherness. We have enjoyed connection and a growing intimacy amongst our two communities. What began with a knitting of hearts between the Blackman and the Barnes families, has extended into our two churches.

With this in mind, we have some exciting news to share with you:

After prayer and consultation with our respective Apostolic partners, we believe that God is calling us into committed unity of mission and mandate. We are thus in conversation anticipating that we will merge our two churches in the near future.

We believe that out of two, God is creating one. A new family with an increased urgency and conviction, but with a mission that remains the same since Jesus instituted the Church:

The Way of Jesus for the Renewal of all Things.

We believe that Sarepta and West Point Church, God's people, are being called to join as a new community in the Upper Highway, under a new name: *Ecclesia*.

We ask that you pray for us as we continue to seek God and look toward a shared future.

Through prayer and Apostolic consultation, we have decided that Ecclesia will be led by Brian and Caitlin Barnes. They will have the close support of Alan and Mary-Ellen Blackman, within a broader Eldership team. We will also establish a deaconate to meet the functional needs of the church.

Of course, there are many details that require our prayer and consideration, including a more detailed timeline to our launch. Once we have fleshed these things out with greater clarity, we will share them with you.

From 30th May, West Point Church will meet at 8.30 am each Sunday on the Sarepta campus, 11 Old Main Road, Gillitts. Sarepta will meet after this at 10.30 am. We are expectant that this will enable us to enjoy closer relationship, and so facilitate deeper connection as we look toward a shared future.

We want to thank you for your continued support as you trust the decisions we make in the Spirit. We value and appreciate your prayer.

God Bless,

Brian and Caitlin Barnes
Alan and Mary-Ellen Blackman
On behalf of the eldership teams