



GEORGES RIVER
LIFE CHURCH

Dear GRLC

Scott came to us at the end of August, advising his thoughts. He shared his heart for Georges Life River Church (GRLC) and the strong desire to see it continue to grow.

On behalf of the Church Leadership Team (CLT), we are very thankful for Scott, Jodie and their whole family. We have been so blessed to have been led by Scott for the last 24 years. As indicated by Scott, you know that this decision has not been made lightly, and he has spent considerable time seeking out God's will for both himself and his family. Whilst many of us may not have experienced any other Senior Pastor at GRLC, we can trust that God has already been at work and prepared our next steps.

We know this is a significant transition in GRLC History. As a leadership team, through our discussions over the last few months, we have been reassured in the knowledge that God has blessed us with a healthy church. We believe Christ has given us our core values, vision and mission for GRLC, and we assure you that these will remain intact and at the forefront as we navigate this transitional period.

Sophie, Taryn and Katelyn will share this news on Sunday 3 November with the children at Peakhurst, and then at Chipping Norton on Sunday 10 November. Jess, Elyse and Sophie will also present it to the youth on Friday 8 November, explaining the significance for our church and the opportunity to pray about it and into it as the young people of the church.

It is our hope and prayer that both as a leadership team and as a church family, during this period of transition, we ALL lean in tighter together, as a united community of believers, in helping and supporting one another. We invite you to actively join with us in seeking God's guidance as we discover what this next chapter looks like in the leadership of our church.

We recognise this is big news. Change can feel uncertain and uncomfortable – you may be feeling this. At the same time, you may also be feeling some deep joy in all of this for Scott, who has faithfully led us over so many years and is now responding to God's call to step down. Scott is finishing well, and while finding the "right time" is never easy, we honour his discernment in this decision and express our gratitude for his leadership.

We have never had such a large Church Leadership Team, and we all represent a different part of GRLC. God knew what was needed before we did. We are very confident that God is in the midst of this and is leading us in this next chapter of GRLC.

So, what next?

As a Baptist Church, the appointment of a new Senior Pastor is a decision that involves our congregation and our CLT. The Senior Pastor is appointed by the Partners of GRLC, the same as our Church Leadership Team is. While the final decision rests with our Partners, we value the insights, prayers, and support of everyone in our church community. The selection process for a new Senior

Pastor will actively involve our Partners, but we invite all members of the congregation to join us in this journey, staying informed and engaged along the way.

Over the past few months, the CLT have been working on a transition plan to guide us through this journey. In the coming weeks, we will begin to share more details about each phase of this plan, giving you a clear understanding of what to expect and how to stay involved. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity as we progress. To support open communication, we will provide several channels for you to reach us, including some Q&A sessions.

Our first in-person Q&A session will be held on Sunday 3 November, following the morning and evening services. If you are unable to attend the morning service at Peakhurst, please join us for the evening session, which will also be accessible via Zoom.

For questions you'd like to submit ahead of time, please email us at clt@grlc.org.au

We will compile an FAQ document based on your questions, so anyone unable to attend the Q&A sessions can still stay informed.

Our commitment is to make this process as transparent and inclusive as possible, ensuring you are well-supported and informed every step of the way.

Please know that the CLT and the Staff are here if you need someone to talk to.

**Thank you,
The Church Leadership Team**