



## Dear GRLC family

After almost 25 wonderful years as Senior Pastor, it is time for me to pass on the baton to a new generation and resign from my role as your leader. There is never a perfect time, but I am confident this is the right time.

Rest assured, my conclusion does not end with the Morrisons disappearing! Our church is our home and, after discussing it with the Church Leadership Team (CLT), we will stay worshipping and serving alongside you in our shared vision as congregation members.

For GRLC, I believe:

- Our church (and Life Care) is healthy, unified and gaining momentum. Our mission and vision are clear and active.
- Our church has a highly competent and committed staff and leadership team ready to take us forward.
- Change is good and necessary, and new leadership brings new opportunities and outcomes for the church.

For myself, I believe:

- Senior Pastoring is a challenging, all-consuming privilege and perhaps not a role anyone should do forever. I think I've had a pretty good turn at what has been the most significant assignment of my life, and I think I've completed the long-term, gradual work of preparing those who will lead on, long after me.
- As a disciple, I want to stay attentive to God's continuing call, which, from time to time, necessitates an ending for there to be a beginning. I have no clear next step. I'm not intending to lead another church. There is no better offer I'm going to; only trusting and waiting on Jesus in my calling to serve Him wholeheartedly.

I want to add that this decision is neither precipitated by being stressed, tired or unhappy in my role, or the direction of GRLC. I love my job, my team and my church. I'm as passionate about Jesus and The Church as ever. Nor are there any relational or moral problems or conflicts in my marriage or personal life. I am deeply thankful to be finishing this leg of my race well, both personally and in positioning GRLC to really flourish in the next season!

We all share a minor role in the greater work God is doing; as Paul says in 1 Cor 3.6-7, *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."* A vital long-term task of every Senior Pastor is to progressively develop leaders and keep empowering them until they surpass their own leadership. The final gift I can give our beautiful church is releasing my own position and power to let them lead at the highest level. It's certainly bittersweet, but it's time for me to give the privilege and responsibility back to you and to our next generation – I can't wait to see what they'll do!

**What happens now?** The CLT are already hard at work and will bring a proposed way forward to our church Partners for voting on at the Annual Church Meeting (ACM). We have a very capable and godly leadership team who will guide you through this process. I will continue in my role till the end of January 2025. I will then take all my accrued long service leave and annual leave while you work this through over the first half of 2025. After my leave, I'll be back as a congregation member at Peakhurst.

**What's next for me?** Honestly, I don't fully know, and I'm not rushing to find out. I am looking forward to taking a break. I plan to rest, travel a little, and I have a pesky thesis to complete. Vocationally, I still have a clear sense of call to help Christian leaders advance the gospel and flourish in their work. I have been thinking, studying and working in this space for several years now, and I trust God has more for me to do and, hopefully, the means to do it.

I know that for a little while, this will be an unsettling period for us all. As a church let's rally together in this season, in prayer through the process, and for the team as they adapt to new challenges and serving gaps where they will need your practical support. I feel both sad and joyful in this moment. As much as it's an ending of an era, this is also the beginning of an exciting new season for GRLC, the team and God's work through our church - which incidentally is nearing 100 years of ministry in our community. I can't wait to see what God does in the next chapter, and I and my whole family look forward to serving alongside you all.

**With deep gratitude,  
Scott and Jodie Morrison**