

Redemption Church Family,

We're excited to announce an exciting season for Redemption Flagstaff - we will be joining Redemption Alhambra and a church plant in South Phoenix, in partnership with Surge. We wanted to tell you a little bit about why we made that decision.

First, this has been heartbreaking for us as leaders of Redemption Flagstaff. We have many deep and wonderful relationships with people across every Redemption congregation. We have been saddened that this process was needed for Redemption, and we wish there was a way we could have all stayed together. You all have been such a blessing to our church in Flagstaff over the years.

There are many factors that led to our decision; two seem to be most at play. First is that there is a kindred spirit between Redemption Alhambra and Redemption Flagstaff. We share similar vision and philosophy when it comes to mission, unity, ecclesiology, church partnerships, and even the definition of the church. We value having a sister church in a very different context that will continue to teach us much about what it means to be a multiethnic body of Christ. We are excited to work together with Redemption Alhambra going forward.

Secondly, we want to re-evaluate our complementarian position. Through discussions with Redemption's lead pastors we've realized that the level to which we would like to theologically evaluate our position is untenable for the Redemption Network. We have key leaders at Redemption Flagstaff that do not share the same theological convictions around complementarianism that Redemption Arizona has historically had, and we are committed to this as a necessary re-evaluation process we want to go through.

Currently, Alhambra, South Phoenix, and Flagstaff are dreaming about what could be. We don't know if God will have us form a network together, or another multi-congregational church. Each of these churches desire to foster deep connections with one another, so we are in a stage of praying through, thinking through, and discussing what that could look like. We are excited at what God could do through all this. Over the coming months and year, our local congregations will hear more about what it is that we hope to become together. Our aim is for this journey to be guided by prayer and wisdom. We envision a united church family, where people from diverse walks of life come together. Our goal is to be a multi-ethnic community that prioritizes the vulnerable and shares gifts and resources. We're collaborating with the Surge Network and other leaders to figure out how to structure our church to match this vision. Please join us in prayer as we step out on a journey to build a church family in partnership with South Phoenix and Alhambra.

Locally we believe this decision helps us to live faithfully into the church God has created us to be. Even with structural transitions in Redemption Arizona, we will continue to be the church that we have been called to be, Lord willing.

We want to say to the other Redemption congregations that we will miss our partnership with you and extend our deepest thanks for all the ways you have supported us over the years. We love you very much and we hope regardless of church structure that we all continue to live as the family of God, connected to one another.

- Redemption Flagstaff Elders