



ONE

CHURCH MISSION FAMILY FUTURE

FRIENDSCHURCH

ONE

Two histories.

One family.

One mission.

Greater Kingdom Impact.

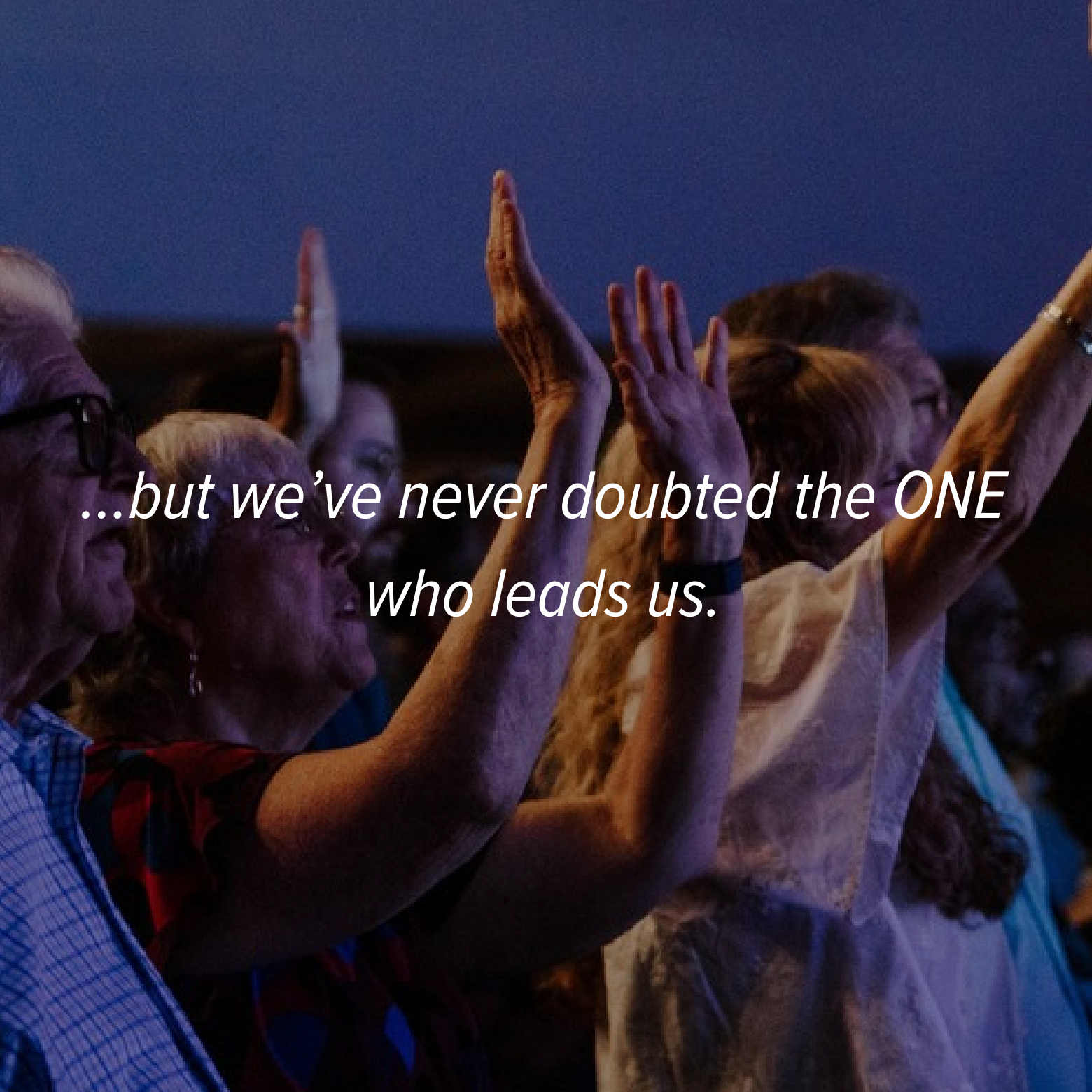
“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”

John 17:21

A person in silhouette is shown from the back, with their right arm raised high. They are in a crowd, with other people's heads and shoulders visible in the foreground and background. The background is a vibrant blue and purple, possibly a stage or a large screen. In the upper left, there is white text that reads "YOU REIGN" and "THE ABOVE ALL NAMES".

YOU REIGN
THE ABOVE ALL NAMES

We've never been this way before...

A photograph of a group of people, likely in a church, with their hands raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The scene is dimly lit with blue and purple ambient lighting. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

*...but we've never doubted the ONE
who leads us.*

Dear Friends family,

For the last several years, Mardi and I have been praying about the future of Friends Church. More specifically, we have been asking God what faithfulness looks like—not just for today, but for the generations that will follow.

As we've prayed, three convictions have continually guided our hearts.

First, we want to finish well. Our desire has always been to serve faithfully, love deeply, and leave behind a strong foundation that others can build upon for years to come. I have served Friends Church for the last 34 years and I love this church more than I can put into words.

Second, we want to do everything possible to protect the unity and testimony of Christ's Church. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one so that the world would believe. We never wanted our next chapter to be about building our church, but about advancing His Kingdom together.

And finally, we prayed that God would raise up leaders with a vision so compelling, so God-sized, that the only way it could ever become reality would be if He Himself moved in power, doing immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine. We prayed for leaders marked by humility, unwavering character, courageous faith, and a relentless passion to help people find and follow Jesus.

For nearly twenty years, I have had the privilege of knowing Brian Moore, senior pastor of Crosspointe Church in Anaheim. Over those years, I have watched him lead, serve, and love people with authenticity and humility. I have seen those very qualities in both Brian and his Shannon, and we have become convinced that God has uniquely prepared them for such a time as this.

In July of 2025, I approached Brian and Shannon with one simple request. Before we discussed plans or possibilities, would they simply pray with us for six months? Would they seek God's heart alongside us and ask whether He might be calling our churches to become one?

Not a partnership. Not a merger. Not an acquisition. But one church.

Since that conversation, we have spent countless hours praying, meeting, listening, discerning, and inviting our leadership teams and boards into the process. Again and again, we have witnessed God faithfully opening doors, confirming direction, and doing what many would have thought impossible.

Healthy churches don't often choose to become one. Yet God has been writing a story far bigger than either congregation could write alone.

This isn't about one church absorbing another. It's about two church families uniting around one Savior, one mission, and one vision—to reach more people with the hope of Jesus than either of us could ever reach on our own.

As I look toward this next season of ministry, I cannot imagine a greater joy than welcoming Brian, Shannon, and the Crosspointe family to become one with Friends Church.

This is far more than a succession plan.
It is a Kingdom plan.

It is about creating greater opportunities for people to find and follow Jesus—across our neighborhoods, throughout our communities, and around the world.

I truly believe our greatest days are not behind us—they are still ahead of us.

I am incredibly grateful that God has allowed Mardi and me to play a small part in what He is doing. We love Friends Church. And we've loved the 34 years we've served together here. And I cannot wait for the day when we stand together as one church, united by one mission, serving the one true and living God, and watching Him do more than we ever dreamed possible.

The future has never been brighter, because the One who is leading us into it has always been faithful.

Matthew Cork

In Him,
Matthew Cork
Senior Pastor, Friends Church



Dear Friends Church,

Twenty years ago, God called our family to Crosspointe. We came believing that God could do something special through a church fully surrendered to Him. Looking back, I'm overwhelmed by His faithfulness.

We've seen thousands of people place their faith in Jesus, thousands baptized, marriages restored, children and students disciplined, and countless lives transformed by the power of the Gospel. None of that happened because of one person. It happened because of a church family that has consistently said “yes” to God's leading.

Today, I believe He's inviting us to say “yes” again.

Over the past several months, some of our pastors and trustees have spent countless hours praying, seeking wise counsel, asking hard questions, and listening carefully to the Lord. This has not been a rushed decision or simply a strategic opportunity. It has been a spiritual journey.

As we've prayed, one conviction has continued to grow in our hearts: God's Kingdom has always been bigger than any **one** church.

That conviction has led us into conversations with Friends Church of Yorba Linda about becoming **one** church family. This isn't about **one** church taking over another. It isn't about leaving behind who we are. It's about joining together so we can accomplish even more for the Kingdom of God than either church could accomplish alone.

As part of this journey, the elders of Friends Church, with the unanimous confirmation of the Crosspointe Trustees, have asked me to become the Senior Pastor of our combined church family. I'm humbled by their trust and excited about what God will do through all of us together.

For the first 18 months, Pastor Matthew and I will lead together as co-pastors. That season will give us the opportunity to bring our two church families together intentionally, honor the strengths and history of both churches, and build one healthy, unified culture for the future.

We know you may have questions. That's healthy, and we hope this booklet begins to answer many of them. More than anything, we want you to know our heart.

Shannon and I love our Crosspointe family! We believe in what God has done there, and we believe our best days are still ahead. My prayer is that years from now we'll look back on this season as another defining moment in our church's story, when we trusted God enough to follow Him into something we had never experienced before.

As Joshua told the people of Israel before they crossed the Jordan, "Break camp and follow the Ark... for you have never been this way before."

Can I let you in on a secret? "I've never been this way before." But I know this: the God who has faithfully led us for the past twenty years will faithfully lead us into whatever He has next.

Thank you for praying, asking questions, and seeking God's heart alongside us. I can't wait to see what He will do through a church united around one mission: helping more people find & follow Jesus.

With gratitude and hope,



Pastor Brian & Shannon
Lead Pastor
Crosspointe Church



A large group of people, mostly women, are seated at round tables in a brightly lit room with large windows. The room is decorated with orange, white, and green balloons. The people are looking towards the front of the room, suggesting a presentation or lecture. The text "WHY THIS?" is written in large white letters, underlined, and "WHY NOW?" is written in large white letters below it.

WHY THIS?

WHY NOW?

We believe God has brought Friends and Crosspointe together for a moment like this.

We share the same heart for people, the same commitment to the Gospel, and the same desire to help people find & follow Jesus.

This is about two healthy churches choosing to become one stronger church so we can reach more people, develop more leaders, strengthen more ministries, and make a greater Kingdom impact together.

And why now?

Because we believe God is opening a door that may not always be open. Southern California is filled with people who are far from God, families searching for hope, and a next generation that desperately needs Jesus. Rather than protecting what God has already built, we believe he is inviting us to multiply it. We don't want to look back years from now and wonder what God might have done if we had possessed the faith to say yes.

Throughout this process, we as your pastors and elders, have spent months praying, seeking God's wisdom, evaluating every opportunity and challenge, and asking one question above all others:

"Is this what God is asking us to do?"

We believe the answer is **yes**.

This uniting of two churches isn't driven by financial pressure, declining attendance, or organizational necessity.

It's driven by our shared mission.



YOU'RE INVITED

**GREATER
KINGDOM
IMPACT**

Throughout that journey, three convictions continued to rise to the surface. These are the three primary reasons we believe God is leading us toward this partnership.

Every decision we have made comes back to one question...

How can we help more people find & follow Jesus?

This partnership isn't about building a larger organization. It's about advancing God's Kingdom.

Together, we believe we can...

Reach more people.

Strengthen families, care for people, build excellent discipleship pathways.

Strengthen more campuses.

More diversity of gifts, experiences, and perspectives working together for the Kingdom.

Invest in more ministries.

Deeper integration across the body of Christ, allowing people and ministries to complement one another rather than work in isolation.

Develop more leaders.

More people equipped and commissioned to make disciples where they live, work, learn, and play.

Plant more churches.

See more lives transformed than either church could accomplish alone.

Our goal has never been to build our kingdom.

Our calling is to advance His.

SHARED MISSION



As we spent time together and got to know one another, something unexpected began to emerge.

What surprised us most wasn't how much we admired one another. It was how clearly we recognized the same calling.

We weren't trying to convince each other to embrace a common mission.

We already shared one.

- A passion for reaching people far from God.
- A love for the next generation.
- A commitment to God's Word and strong Biblical teaching.
- A heart for local and global missions.
- A culture of warmth, hospitality, and compassion.

**We found two churches with different histories
but remarkably similar hearts.**

That kind of ministry alignment is rare, and we believe it is something God has uniquely brought together.

A photograph of two women embracing warmly. The woman on the right is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She has blonde hair and is wearing a black top and a black bag. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a light blue patterned dress. They are standing in front of large green plants. In the foreground, there is a dark table with a decorative bowl and a chair with a geometric pattern. The text "BETTER TOGETHER" is overlaid in large white letters.

**BETTER
TOGETHER**

We believe God is calling us together. Not to lose who we are, but to become more than we could be on our own.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER...

This isn't simply about what merges. **It's about what emerges.**

STRONGER MINISTRIES

Together, we can strengthen and expand ministries already making a difference in people's lives: NextGen • College & Young Adults • Life Groups • Care & Recovery • Alpha • Rooted • Loving Families • Serve Teams • Community Partners • Global Missions

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Becoming one church opens doors for our congregation that we don't currently have on our own. Crosspointe has grown incredible ministries that complement what Friends already does well.

GREATER REACH

And together, we have greater capacity to develop leaders, serve our communities, send missionaries, plant churches, and help more people find and follow Jesus.

Not bigger for the sake of being bigger.

It's about being more effective in the mission Jesus has given us.

A photograph of three young women laughing and posing in front of a chain-link fence. The woman on the left is wearing a grey hoodie with rainbow-colored stripes on the sleeves and has her arm raised. The woman in the middle is wearing a dark grey t-shirt, a black baseball cap with 'CHICO STATE' on it, and sunglasses. The woman on the right is wearing a light blue patterned hoodie and light blue jeans. They are all smiling and laughing. The background is a chain-link fence with some blurred figures of people behind it.

**THE STORY
OF HOW GOD
LED US HERE**

This wasn't something we were looking for.

It wasn't part of a strategic plan or a long-term goal. It wasn't on our roadmap. But sometimes God leads us to places we never expected.

In July 2025, I reached out to my friend Brian Moore with an unexpected invitation: would you and your wife spend the next six months praying about a possible partnership between Friends Church and Crosspointe?

Those first conversations weren't about making plans. They were about **listening, asking questions, and seeking God's direction**. As the conversations continued, we began to see something remarkable.

We saw two churches with different histories, but with the same heart.

- Two churches passionate about the authority of Scripture.
- Two churches committed to helping people find & follow Jesus.
- Two churches that care deeply about the next generation.
- Two churches that believe the local church is God's plan for bringing hope to the world.

The more we prayed, the more we sensed that God might be doing something much bigger than either church could accomplish alone.

That didn't mean the decision was easy.

Our leaders asked difficult questions.

We sought wise counsel. We examined doctrine. Governance. Leadership. Culture. Finances. Long-term vision. And...more than anything else, we asked...

"What is God asking us to do?"

As we continued seeking Him, our confidence continued to grow. **We believe God has opened a door unlike anything we've experienced before.**

In Joshua 3, before the people of Israel entered the Promised Land, Joshua told them:

"You have never traveled this way before."

Those words resonate with me. I've never led through something like this before. Our leaders have never walked through something like this before.

As a church family... **we've never been this way before.**

But the same God who has faithfully led Friends for the past 114 years is faithfully leading us today. We don't know every detail of what the future holds. But we know the One who holds the future. And because of that, we move forward with humility, confidence, and great expectation for what God will do next.

OUR PRAYER

Lord,

Protect our uncommon unity.

Keep us humble.

Give us courageous faith.

Help us love people more than preferences.

May everything we do bring glory to You

and help more people find & follow Jesus.



THE KINGDOM IS BIGGER THAN ANY *ONE* CHURCH

Paul wrote these remarkable words while imprisoned:

"The important thing is that in every way... Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice." – *Philippians 1:18*

Paul wasn't interested in building his own platform. His greatest concern was that more people hear about Jesus. That same conviction shapes our hearts today. This decision isn't about making one church larger. **It's about making a greater impact for God's Kingdom.**

Joining together doesn't erase our unique stories or backgrounds. It means placing Christ's mission above our personal preferences as we pursue His Kingdom together.

Jesus prayed for unity

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed one final prayer for His followers.

"I pray that they will all be one... so that the world will believe You sent Me." – *John 17:21*

Notice that Jesus connected the unity of His Church with the credibility of the Gospel. When believers demonstrate uncommon unity around Christ, the world gets a clearer picture of who Jesus is.

This proposed partnership is our desire to live out that prayer. Not by eliminating our unique histories, but by becoming one church family with one shared mission.



BETTER TOGETHER

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed." – Eccl 4:9

While this passage speaks broadly about partnership, the principle is beautifully reflected throughout the New Testament as churches worked together, encouraged one another, and shared in God's mission.

We believe God has uniquely brought together two healthy churches with remarkable ministry alignment.

Not so one church can become more important than another.

Not so one church could absorb another.

But so that two church families could become one.

United around one mission: helping more people find & follow Jesus.

That has been our prayer from the beginning.

And we believe it reflects the heart of the New Testament:

One Savior.

One Gospel.

One Mission.

One Church.

WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME

The foundation of who we are isn't changing. These are the convictions that have shaped Friends from the beginning and will continue to shape us in the future.

Before we talk about what's changing, let's remember what isn't.

OUR BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS

God's Word remains our authority.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Matthew and our Elder Board will continue to have a primary leadership role in our united church family.

OUR HEART FOR EVANGELISM

Helping more people know Jesus.

OUR PASSION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Kids, students, and young adults remain a priority.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Life Groups • Studing God's Word together • Community

OUR HEART TO SERVE OTHERS

Bringing the hope of Jesus, around the corner and around the world.

The relationships you've built, the people you've served alongside, and the ministry you've invested in all will continue.

In fact, our prayer is that those relationships and ministries become even stronger as we welcome new brothers and sisters into our church family.

Everything you've loved about being part of Friends doesn't disappear. It grows.

Yet, we know this transition may bring mixed emotions.

That's okay.

Every meaningful journey does. Some things will look different as we move forward together. That's true anytime God leads His people into a new season. But the things that matter most remain unchanged.

Jesus is still our Savior.

The Bible is still our foundation.

Serving God is still our focus.





EVERY NEW SEASON BRINGS CHANGE

That's true in life, in families, and in churches.

While change can feel uncertain, it also creates opportunities that weren't possible before.

Throughout Scripture, God often invited His people to release something familiar so they could embrace something greater.

And while we may not always see the full picture at the beginning, we can move forward with trust, believing that God is still at work, guiding us into new possibilities, deeper relationships, and a future we may not have been able to imagine on our own.

FAQ'S

Will Matthew still be our pastor?

Yes. Matthew will continue serving as a senior pastor at Friends and will remain an important part of our church throughout this transition and beyond. After 35 years of leadership, he is committed to helping Friends move into this next chapter with wisdom, stability, and care.

How will leadership work during the transition?

For the first 18 months after we become one church, Matthew and Brian will serve together as co-senior pastors. This intentional transition is part of Matthew's long-planned succession process and will help unite our church families, align our ministries, and build a strong foundation for the future. At the end of the transition, Brian will serve as Senior Pastor, and Matthew will continue serving as one of our pastors on staff, reporting to Brian.

Are there any changes to our church governance?

A new Elder Board will begin with four elders from Crosspointe and four elders from Friends Church, giving both churches an equal voice as we move forward together. Our governance will continue to be an elder-led model. We believe this structure demonstrates mutual trust, shared leadership, and our desire to become one church family serving one mission. In addition, Matthew and Brian will both serve on the Elder Board for the first 18 months.

Will our doctrine or beliefs change?

No. We share a strong commitment to the authority of Scripture, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the historic truths of the Christian faith. This theological alignment is one of the primary reasons we believe God has brought us together. Crosspointe will become part of the Friends denomination and adhere to our faith and practice.

Will any staff lose their jobs?

As we bring two ministry teams together, some staff responsibilities may change. Our commitment is to care well for every staff member throughout the process, making every decision prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with compassion.

Our goal isn't simply to reduce positions. It's to build the strongest possible ministry team for God's glory.

FAQ'S (cont'd)

When will the partnership begin?

We anticipate officially becoming one church family early in 2027. Between now and then, we'll continue sharing what we know, answering questions, praying together, and thoughtfully preparing for the transition. Our desire is to move forward with wisdom, unity, and confidence as we follow God's leading.

What about our other campuses?

We believe in our campus multiplication strategy as a way to reach more people in more places. As part of the transition, we will be welcoming Crosspointe's Brea campus into our family of churches. Our desire is not fewer opportunities for ministry, but greater effectiveness as we work together.

Will Erik Thoennes still teach?

Yes. Friends Church will continue to be a team-led church, with a teaching team guiding our weekend gatherings. Matthew and Brian will teach most weekends, while additional teachers, such as Erik, will continue to rotate in regularly.

Will our ministries continue?

Yes. Kids, Students, College & Young Adults, Groups, Care and Recovery ministry, Local Outreach, and Global Missions will continue. As we move forward together, we believe many of these ministries will become even stronger.

What happens to Crosspointe's property?

Crosspointe's property will become part of Friends Church and will continue to be used for ministry. While all worship services will move to the Friends Yorba Linda campus, the current Crosspointe campus will be used for mid-week ministry. The Crosspointe campus will remain a vital part of the mission as we continue serving our community and helping people find & follow Jesus.



**"Blessed are the
peacemakers,
for they will be called
children of God."**

Matthew 5:9

Imagine 5 Years from now...

Hundreds more children hearing about Jesus.

Students filling worship centers.

More baptisms than we've ever celebrated.

More marriages restored.

More missionaries sent.

More churches planted.

More young leaders raised up.

More people who once felt far from God, now calling Jesus Lord.

We believe this is the kind of future God is inviting us into.

WALKING THROUGH THIS TOGETHER

As we move through this season together, here's how we can reflect the heart of Christ in every conversation.

Pray First

Before every conversation, ask God for wisdom. Our goal is to seek God's will together with humility, love, and faith.

Commit to being a Peacemaker

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9

We know this announcement will spark conversations with family members, friends, coworkers, and others in our church and community. That's a good thing.

Give People Space

Everyone processes change differently. Some people are immediately excited. Others need time to pray, think, and ask questions. Let's give one another the grace to process at different speeds.

Lead with Faith and Unity

When talking about the partnership, let's assume the best, speak with humility, and remember that we're all seeking the same thing: God's will. Unity doesn't mean that we see eye to eye, it means that we walk arm in arm as we pursue God's direction together.

Know Where to Find Answers

Rather than relying on rumors or incomplete information, we encourage you to stay connected through our official communication channels. Visit [Friends.Church/One](#) for updates, FAQs, important dates, and additional resources.

Together, let's protect the unity of our church as we trust God to lead us into this next chapter.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

We believe this journey is about more than a decision. It's about seeking God's will together as one church family. We want everyone to feel informed, heard, and encouraged. Please continue praying, asking questions, and seeking God's wisdom with us.

We believe the same God who has faithfully led us to this point will faithfully lead us into the future. We want every person who calls Friends home to have the opportunity to understand the vision, ask honest questions, and seek the Lord with us.

Pray

Continue praying for wisdom, unity, and God's leading.

Stay Informed

We'll continue providing updates through weekend gatherings, email, our website, and other communication channels. As additional questions arise, we'll share answers and keep everyone informed throughout the process.

Continue the Mission

While we prepare for tomorrow, let's remain faithful today. Every weekend matters. Every person matters. Every opportunity to help people find & follow Jesus matters.

HOW YOU CAN PRAY

We believe the most important thing we can do during this season is pray.

Here are a few specific ways you can pray:

Pray for Humility

Ask God to help each of us hold our preferences loosely and keep His Kingdom first.

Pray for Wisdom

Ask God to give our leaders and congregations wisdom, discernment, and unity.

Pray for Uncommon Unity

Pray that Friends and Crosspointe would be united in heart, purpose, and love, reflecting Jesus' prayer that "they may all be one."

Pray for Extravagant Generosity

Ask God to help us steward our time, talent, and treasure to build His Kingdom, together.

Pray for Courageous Faith

Pray that our church family would approach this opportunity with faith, trust, and a willingness to follow wherever God leads.

Pray for Unconditional Love

Pray that through this partnership, more people would come to know Jesus, more lives would be transformed, and more communities would be reached with the Gospel.

Thank you for praying with us. We believe God honors a church that seeks Him first, and we're trusting Him to faithfully lead us into this next chapter.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

114 years ago, God called Friends Church to help people find & follow Jesus. Since then, we've watched Him do immeasurably more than we could have asked or imagined.

And we believe He's not finished yet.

As we look ahead, we don't see the end of one story.

We see the beginning of a new chapter.

A chapter where two church families become one.

A chapter marked by making more disciples.

A chapter built on extraordinary shared mission.

A chapter that reminds us we truly are better together.

We believe God is inviting us into something bigger than ourselves.

And we're inviting you to join us!

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20–21

FRIENDSCHURCH