
Hillside



Better Together

A Greater Future as One Church

Gateway

[+] THE NEWS

In the midst of challenging times, Bruce, Dori and the leadership of Hillside have been praying and having deep conversations with the pastors of Gateway City Church in San Jose. After years of relationship and ministry, we have determined that it is God’s will for us to become one church. We are acting in response to the Holy Spirit’s direction, to fulfill our common vision of reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our steps of faith are being ordered by the Lord, and will launch an exciting and new season for every one of us. Our future is full of renewed hope, greater security, new opportunity, more friends and deep spiritual blessings.

[+] WHAT NOW?

This handout has been prepared to answer questions and connect you to what God is doing. Please read it carefully and be in prayer as we work through this process. We’ll have several events to discover what this looks like and how you can stay connected to it all. Below is a timeline that reflects what’s happened so far and how we plan to move forward.

Hillside and Gateway Relational Milestones



[+] QUESTIONS?

Please read the FAQs below. If you have any additional questions, we welcome you to email our pastors directly at hillsidepastors@msn.com or call us at 831-245-5582 or 831-245-5583.

[+] INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE TEAM?

You are an essential part of this exciting step of faith. We need your help more than ever to move forward in our mission of reaching people. Your faithful attendance, service, prayer and giving of your tithes and offerings are the most powerful ways for us to stay together and accomplish more for Jesus. Please watch for more details and opportunities to be a part!

[+] OVERVIEW OF OUR DECISION TO UNITE

Due to the difficult health concerns we are navigating through, the leaders of HCF had to ask themselves some important questions regarding the future of Hillside:

- **How do we move forward?**
- **How do we best stay together?**
- **Who will be able to best lead us in our future?**

To get the answers to these important questions, we were led by God to initiate prayer and conversations with Pastors David and Kathy Cannistraci. As you know, Pastor David is a man of integrity with an apostolic and prophetic gifting, and Pastor Kathy is a wise and compassionate woman of God. Even though you are just hearing about this, we have had months of prayerful, heartfelt, transparent times of connection with the Cannistraci's and their team.

After many years of personal relationship with the Cannistraci's, we feel comfortable and confident with them and their team. We trust Pastor David as an overseer, and we are assured that his seasoned team could adopt, resource and lead a church like ours into the future.

It has always been our vision and desire to see our church grow. This decision will open new doors and provide new resources that will expand and build upon what God has done through Hillside in our community. The church has never been about us...it is so much bigger. Our hope and desire is to see a blending of those at Hillside and Gateway working together, building together and moving forward together. We are becoming one to further build the Kingdom of God!

[+] FAQ'S ABOUT MOVING TOGETHER TOWARD ONE CHURCH

Why should we join with Gateway now? There are several key reasons, including Pastor Bruce's health concerns as well as his age. Also, we feel like in this season, we would be far more effective in reaching our community together. Uniting with Gateway secures our future and keeps us together as a body.

What kind of church is Gateway City Church? Gateway is a Spirit-filled church of 1,800 members based in San Jose, with additional campuses in Santa Rosa, Clovis, Modesto, Gilbert/Phoenix AZ and Las Vegas NV. Pastor David is a part of the MFI Apostolic Leadership Team and has ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit all over the world for over 40 years. You can learn more by visiting mygatewaycity.church and davidcannistraci.org

What will this look like? We are taking steps towards becoming one church by January 9th, 2022. At this time several things would happen. First, Pastor David would become our Lead Pastor. Second, the members of Hillside would be welcomed into covenant relationship with Gateway. Third, Hillside and Gateway will work together to establish a campus pastor that would lead us locally. With one vision and one leadership team, we will then be one church.

What blessings can we expect? God has great things in store for us. By joining with Gateway, Hillside would continue to stay together under an expanded leadership team. We will experience more ministry programs, added resources and tools for our people, from which additional outreaches will be established. We will also become a part of a larger church family that is reaching into many cities. We believe something new and fresh will happen in our church family.

What new resources will be available? As we transition you can expect access to Grow Tracks, Life Groups, Bible college courses, care and counseling, freedom classes, additional help for our youth and children's programs and many other spiritual growth and fellowship opportunities.

Will my church experience change? You can still expect Spirit filled worship, unwavering commitment to the Bible, spiritual health and a warm welcome for all people. Our new Lead Pastor and his team will regularly visit our location and become a part of our lives. Small changes will come as we add to our culture and the ministry, but it will always feel like "us." Most importantly, we will stay together as the same great church family that we have always been.

What will happen to our pastors? Pastor Bruce and Dori will continue to be a part of the church and help minister as long as they are physically able. The Hillside leadership team will remain active and committed to the body and to working with the Gateway team.

Will we change our name? Yes. When this process is complete, we will be Gateway City Church, and sometimes referred to as the Hollister Campus of Gateway City Church.

What will our church governance look like? There would be one Lead Pastor, one church, one legal board, and one eldership team (which our pastors and elders would be a part of).

What are the advantages of being a multisite church? First, because multisite churches share common resources, our team is freed to focus on people. Second, the multisite model allows smaller churches to enjoy the strength of a large church while still enjoying the "family feeling" of a smaller church. The Gateway model is unique and Biblically-balanced in that the campus team prepares and preaches the Sunday message live, but are part of a larger team that collaborates so that there is a unified message given to all the sites.

What are our next steps? There are three things we ask everyone to do:

- **First, prayerfully seek God.** Pray for wisdom, unity and blessing. Pray against the work of the enemy. Pray for the leaders at both churches during this transitional season.
- **Second, be a part and be present.** We will be having special gatherings during the next few months and we want you to be a part of them. We need you. Please come and meet Pastor David & Kathy and their team. We encourage you to connect, ask questions and be involved.
- **Finally, please give and serve.** We're asking that you continue to faithfully support Hillside with your time, tithes and offerings. The needs are real, and each of us are vital to our future.

[+] MOMENTS AHEAD THAT WE WON'T WANT TO MISS



A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

*with Pastors David and Kathy Cannistraci
and the Gateway Leadership Team*

**Saturday September 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Hillside Christian Fellowship**



2021 INSPIRE LEADERS CONFERENCE

*Speakers, worship and a Special Saturday Prophetic Blessing
and Communion Service to unite our hearts.*

**Friday and Saturday October 15 and 16
Gateway's San Jose Campus
Details at mygatewaycity.church/ilconf**



GRAND OPENING SERVICE

Welcoming our community as Gateway Hollister

**Sunday January 9, 2022
at our present church location**

Bring a friend and help us spread the news!

[+] SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE THIS IS GOD'S WILL

Over the many years of our history together, Hillside has always been a special place. We have all given our best to keep this church going through good times and bad. We are so grateful to each and every one of you, and to the Lord for what He has done. Now we believe with all our hearts that by joining as one church with Gateway City Church, the best is yet to come, and we will truly all be BETTER TOGETHER.

We love each and every one of you, and can't wait to see what God has in store for us all.

Pastors Bruce and Dori Bannister