

# Questions and Answers!

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July 16, 2019

Below is a list of questions and answers we believe are most important to answer in this format. All questions are valuable to us so if your questions haven't been answered or the answers are not sufficient please take the time to reach out to us as well as attend one of our Connect events where we will answer more questions and spend time praying.

## **Why is Hope Chapel joining with Valley Christian Center?**

**Obedience!** We believe this what the Lord has asked of both churches for this next season of bringing His Kingdom to Earth. The heart behind Hope Chapel and Valley Christian Center merging is one of true unity. We believe that in order to better serve and equip the saints for the work of the ministry, Hope has gifts and resources that Valley Christian Center will benefit from and vice versa.

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.”  
(1 Corinthians 12:12–13 NLT-SE)

## **Why the name Echo Hills?**

**Revelation!** We believe that the Father, Son and Spirit are three in one. In their image and likeness, we have been created. They are the source of our very being. As they speak, we are to speak. As they do, we are to do. As we submit our lives to beholding the glory of the Lord, we become the glory that Jesus bought for us with His life (Jn 17:20-23). Therefore, all that we reveal (say and do) on earth as the children of God is simply an echo of what is already known in heaven. We believe that we are to continue to release the sounds of heaven to the generations to come just as the faithful saints of past generations did for us.

**Timing!** We follow two calendars. The Gregorian calendar is our current calendar and it is recognized worldwide and fashioned around a set number of days, seasons and corrections for the earth's orbital rotation. The other calendar is known as the Hebraic (Hebrew) calendar and is fashioned around the biblical feasts of the Lord and His Word. Together, we are able to better navigate the revelation and wisdom of the Lord found in His Word. The next decade on the Hebraic calendar is all about the voice of the Lord coming forth. We know that the voice of the Lord is always present and coming forth, but it's our hearts desire to be in alignment with His Word, work and will. Therefore, let us “echo” all that He is saying as the one true God who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

**Redemption!** Yes, the street that the church building sits on is called Echo Hills Drive. Our intention wasn't to name it based on our location or address. However, the Lord has shown us that there is a redemptive work that He is going to be doing through our unity and it deals with the original intent that He had for the church's current location. We believe, that as we continue to move in unity, more revelation about this redemptive work will be revealed.

“I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so, I say whatever the Father tells me to say.” (John 12:49–50 NLT-SE)

### **Who will be the Senior/Lead Pastor?**

**Insight!** Both Jeph and Mike Richardson will be known as the Lead Pastors of Echo Hills Church. However, we will not be the only lead pastors. We will be developing an apostolic lead team with our current associate and staff pastors. Our current understanding of leadership is primarily based on a hierarchal system with one leader. Though we understand this value, we also have to reconcile our biblical understanding of leadership as well. Jesus is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18-20). As followers we are then to organize ourselves around apostolic leadership gifts for the purpose of equipping the saints (Eph 4:11-12). Therefore, we are intentionally looking into developing a better biblical model of leadership at Echo Hills. This will involve a greater definition of gifting and structure on how the graces of these gifts work together for the church as a body.

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So, he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.” (Colossians 1:18–20 NLT-SE)

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11–12 NLT-SE)

### **Will we still have Sunday 6pm services?**

**Patience!** Our primary focus is on the relational aspect that is tested when we make changes and try to bring two churches together. So, for the rest of the 2019 year, our focus is going to be on gathering together at 10AM on Sunday mornings. We understand that some of you fellowship at other churches in the morning and consider those places to be your “home” church. We pray that you will understand our need to take care of our “home” as a new expression by putting our attention into a unified gathering on Sunday mornings. It is our hope and intention to offer an extension service to our community of friends after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The best way to stay connected with our evolving plans is through our email newsletter, current and new websites, and the new social media sites we will be launching in October. Sign up to receive our emails by going to our current website: [www.hopechappellewiston.com](http://www.hopechappellewiston.com).

### **What will happen to Days of Praise, Healing Rooms, Family Keys International, EdenSong and our other ministry partnerships (NAME Outreach, YoungLife, Family Promise, etc.)?**

**Expansion!** We will be keeping all our current outreach ministries and financial giving as they are, while expanding into new ones. Both Hope and VCC have ministries and missionaries that are supported through the local church. We have the opportunity to expand our support by bringing them all together under the banner of Echo Hills. We look forward to finding new areas to partner with and invest in as our gifts and callings grow in this new season.

### **What will be our denominational affiliation?**

**Perspective!** Currently Hope Chapel Lewiston is affiliated with the Foursquare Gospel and Valley Christian Center with the Assembly of God. We believe the Lord has asked Pastor Jeph to transfer his license to the Assembly of God. Both Foursquare and the Assembly of God have honored this, and the necessary steps are being taken by all parties. Because we are choosing to treat Echo Hills as a new church plant, the governmental structure and doctrine of Assembly of God became more ideal to the expression we want to cultivate as Echo Hills. The primary components that the Lord revealed to us regarding our affiliation with the Assembly of God was “local sovereignty” and a “cooperative fellowship”. This basically translates into: Echo Hills is a sovereign, self-governing local church that acknowledges a fellowship of Pentecostal belief with the Assemblies of God. As a local, sovereign church, we, as the members of Echo Hills, get to determine our

future and the necessary choices to attaining that future while acknowledging a global network of God's grace and movement through the Assemblies of God. This is a radically different structure than what Hope Chapel has been a part of with Foursquare. There is a great liberty that comes with having more local control of our overall direction. Foursquare has been nothing but great to us, so choosing to leave was not quickly decided upon or easily done. We have been intentionally slow and openly honest about the changes involved. The Assembly of God has a rich heritage of revival and unity that gave birth to the movement of the Foursquare Gospel. So, we feel we are still in alignment with our biblical roots of Pentecostal theology.

- **Why be affiliated with a denomination at all? Relationship!** Both Jeph and Mike are very grateful for the connections they have with their respective movements. However, belonging to a denomination, movement or cooperative fellowship doesn't mean what it used to mean. Today, we have better accountability, discipleship and relationship with other pastors in our own community than we do with denominations or networks. Therefore, we feel our alignment with them is more about honoring what God wants to do through the people who have gathered around certain theology beliefs (i.e. the Assembly of God, Foursquare, Charismatic Renewal) than through the organizational structure itself.
- **What is the major difference I may encounter as Echo Hills fellowships with Assembly of God? Membership!** We are currently writing bylaws for the new church that will reflect a hybrid of both Hope and Valley in their current governing conditions. The biggest issue for those who have been in fellowship with Hope Chapel will be the subject of your voice and membership. Currently, membership at Hope hasn't meant much due to the governing structure of Foursquare. Under our new bylaws as a sovereign, self-governing local church, membership of Echo Hills matters and has value. Membership gives you a voice to the overall direction and leadership of the local church. There will be certain decisions that will require a membership vote in order to be approved. Because we believe that we are best positioned, physically and spiritually, to discern our own direction as the Lord leads us, we believe we should have the power to make that choice locally and not leave it subjected to a vote by those who are not present or invested as we are locally. By being a member of Echo Hills church, you are agreeing to being committed to the call of the Lord upon our collective purpose. Membership to Echo Hills does not negate your individual responsibility to the Lord or displace your alignment with Him as the head of the church. It also doesn't make you a member of Assembly of God, but of the local church known as Echo Hills Church. The new bylaws will be made available for viewing when they are finalized before the official launch on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **What will happen to children's ministry and youth ministry?**

**Transformation!** We love kids! We need our children and youth present in our midst, as we worship, minister and encounter the Lord. This has been and will remain our focus. We will continue to provide children's ministry and youth ministry as we unify. The ministries will take on new names and will have leaders of both churches involved to disciple and train. Children will remain in service with us during worship and then be sent out for age appropriate discipleship and encounters. Youth will find a new time to meet and grow but will become involved in the children's ministry again now that we will not be having youth group and church running simultaneously. Pray about stepping up and getting involved with children and youth in this new season.

### **Will we be moving locations?**

**Positioning!** We believe that God has not fulfilled His purpose for the 25 acres that is currently Valley Christian Center. Therefore, we will remain on site as Echo Hills at 3215 Echo Hills Drive, Lewiston, Idaho. We are looking at renovating, updating, and refreshing the entire facility as the Lord leads. With the sense of redemption on the property, we are expecting to see the Lord open new doors for ministry, community and financing. Please join us in prayer as we seek His face for these things.

### **How will Sunday services be shepherded and overseen?**

**Revival!** Our pursuit to encounter the Lord corporately is only going to grow as we unify. The apostolic team that is being assembled will oversee and navigate the flow of Sunday morning services. We have transitioned into a preaching team style of equipping that will remain in place because we believe it is important for the growth of the Body of Christ to hear from the different gifts and perspectives of our team members. We will continue to stay flexible and moldable to the Spirit so that we can bring Him glory and encounter His glory. The components (worship, ministry, giving, preaching, etc.) to any weekly service may be the same, but the order, experiences, and outcomes should be new and exciting every time. We gather to praise and worship with honor through the use of banners/flags, instruments, prophesy, healings and obedience. So, invite your family and friends so that together we may testify of His goodness.

### **Why launch on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10AM?**

**Intentional!** Sundown on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 will mark the start of the new Hebraic calendar year with the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah). As we prayed into our own new identity launch, we felt it was significant to celebrate Echo Hills on the start of the Feast of Trumpets and the season of the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot, October 14-20). We chose this date because we value God's timeline and His promise to fulfill every prophetic word. It's the beginning of a new year and the beginning of our new identity as a church. We also know that the next decade on the Hebraic calendar (5780-5789) prophetically speaks of God's mouth. It is a prophetic transition from seeing (5770-5779) to now declaring what is being revealed by God. There is much revelation around this timing that we will be teaching on and discovering, but know this - we believe the Lord revealed this date as our launch date so that we would embrace it as a foundational moment to set in place the things we have been seeing and desiring for years, but have not yet encountered. If we want to see what we've never seen, we must do what we've never done! At our launch date we will be celebrating where we've been, where we are and where we are going. We look forward to having you join us in this next season of our journey.

### **If I have more questions who do I contact?**

**Call!** Hope office phone: 208-305-7827, email: [hcl@hopechapelleviston.com](mailto:hcl@hopechapelleviston.com)