



SECOND CITY GOSPEL CHURCH

April 3, 2016

Dear NFBC and SCGC Members,

Praise God for the resurrection and the new life we have in Jesus Christ. Through you, we see that he is risen indeed, just as the good news was shared with so many through the baptisms, testimonies, worship, and fellowship this past Easter Sunday! What a privilege to take part in God's saving work. Let's continue to pray that our new members would be strengthened by our welcome.

I am deeply humbled and thankful to announce that last Sunday's merger vote passed with strong support from both churches. From NFBC, 91.25% voted in favor of the merger (with 82.5% of eligible voters participating). And from SCGC, 87.5% voted in favor of the merger (with 80% of eligible voters participating). Having met the needed majorities according to both churches' constitutions, we are officially married as one church, effective immediately. We affirm that the Holy Spirit is especially present in and through the church, so we receive this prayerful support as a congregational affirmation of God's will for us as a community.

This is an exciting time in the life of our church, and we covet your prayers, especially for the leaders and transition team. Please also pray for unity, maturity, and love among us as we enter the next stage of our vision *to see Jesus transform the Chicago area through diverse, biblical communities of worship and mission.*

As we seek to build on the strong legacy laid by NFBC, many challenges and changes surely await us. So let us trust in God's ongoing faithfulness and be empowered by his daily grace. Congratulations on your marriage, church, and thank you for your faithfulness to the work he is still doing in us. Truly, the best is yet to come!

Our Redeemer Lives,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Jay Catanus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gabriel Jay Catanus
Lead Pastor, *Northwest Filipino Baptist Church/Second City Gospel Church*