

Radiant Life FAQ

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Radiant Life Church + Light & Life Wesleyan Church (LLWC)

Church Merger FAQ



- **How did this merger idea come about?**

- In June of 2021, The Great Lakes Region of the Wesleyan Church partnered with Pastor Ryan Bibb and Pastor Ryan Lutz together in a coaching and mentoring relationship. The two Pastors met regularly every month for a two-year period.
 - Pastor Ryan Bibb coached Pastor Ryan Lutz through questions pertaining to children's ministry, board development, leadership pipeline, and a multiplication mindset.
- In December 2022, Pastor Ryan Bibb was in a conversation with Pastor Chris Conrad, the Superintendent of The Great Lakes Region of the Wesleyan Church, concerning the idea of a possible church merger with Light & Life Wesleyan Church. Pastor Chris Conrad was fully on board and encouraged Pastor Ryan Bibb to have further dialogue with Pastor Ryan Lutz about a possible partnership between the two churches, Radiant Life and Light & Life.

- In January 2023, Pastor Ryan Bibb had a discussion with Pastor Ryan Lutz over the idea of the two churches partnering together to better serve, not only the people of Radiant Life and Light & Life, but our communities (Sturigs & Three Rivers) and St. Joseph County for Jesus!
- Pastor Ryan Lutz spent some alone time with God in June of 2023 for a time of discernment seeking how to better serve St. Joseph County and Three Rivers.
- In July 2023, Pastor Ryan Bibb, Pastor Ryan Lutz, and Pastor Brandon Kinsey got together at Winding Creek Campground in Hastings, MI for a time of discussion over the discernment Pastor Ryan Lutz had with God the previous month and further discuss and discern the idea of a church merger.

- **Why are we considering a merger?**

- We believe our congregations would be better together than we would separately.
- We believe we can accomplish more together than we would separately.
- We can better serve our communities by working together than we would separately.
- The Kingdom of God can be further enlarged by joining together.
- God's mission is bigger than either church's mission and vision and working together will advance God's kingdom.

- **What are the benefits of this proposed merger?**
 - Ministry infrastructure and systems.
 - Further reach (multiply expressions of the Holy Spirit's impact where we live, work, and play.)
 - Further equipping the saints for the work of ministry.
 - Collaboration of resources.
- **What is a multisite church?**
 - ONE church family meeting in multiple locations.
- **Will Light and Life Wesleyan Church have a new name and what will it be?**
 - Yes, Radiant Life Three Rivers



- **Who will be the pastor of Radiant Life Three Rivers?**
 - Pastor Ryan Lutz

- **What will happen to the existing pastor and staff at Radiant Life Three Rivers?**

- Pastor Ryan Lutz will be the Lead Pastor of the Three Rivers location and will supervise the pastoral staff and leadership of Radiant Life Three Rivers.
- The future hiring of ministry staff will be under the discretion and discernment of Pastor Ryan Lutz as the Lead Pastor of the Three Rivers location with the approval of the hire from the Elders of Radiant Life.

- **What will happen to the church board and trustees of Radiant Life Three Rivers?**

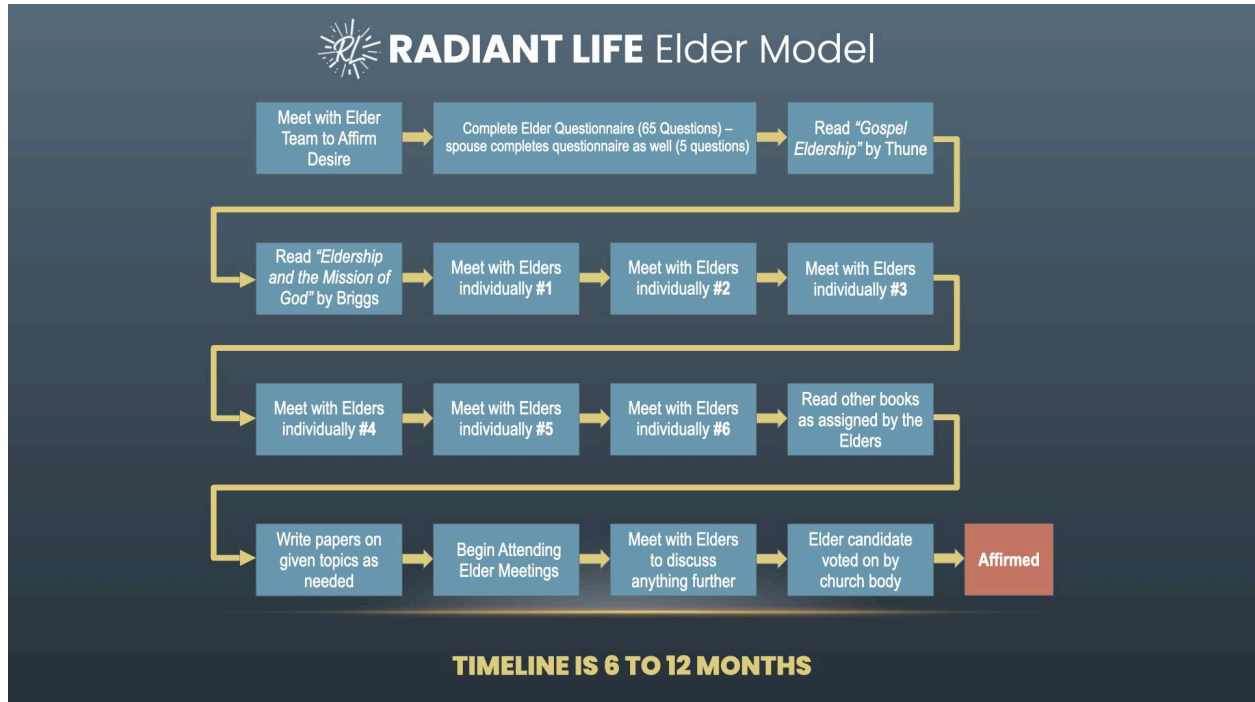
- The Local Board of Administration will dissolve and a “Leadership Team” will be established. An Elder position will be made available from Three Rivers as a potential Elder who will go through the Elder On-boarding process. Pastor Ryan Lutz, as the Lead Pastor of the Three Rivers location, will sit on the Elder Board as representation from Three Rivers, until an Elder is prayerfully selected and discerned over by the current Elders of Radiant Life Church.
 - Eldership, as described biblically, is a very in-depth and focused process (*See Appendix*)
 - After the Elder On-boarding process has been completed, the Elder candidate will be presented before the Three Rivers campus for a vote of approval.


- **Will the LLWC facilities change?**
 - There will be a rebranding to “Radiant Life Three Rivers.” The location will not move to another location.
- **How will the sermons be delivered at Radiant Life Three Rivers?**
 - Live, in-person by Pastor Ryan Lutz as the main communicator, with sporadic communicators from the Radiant Life Church Teaching Team (*Pastor Ryan Bibb, Pastor Brandon Kinsey, Pastor Josh Herrema, Pastor Pam Cary*).
- **Will Radiant Life Sturgis be sending anyone to Radiant Life Three Rivers?**
 - Yes, Radiant Life Sturgis will prayerfully discern a team to be commissioned to the Three Rivers location.
- **How will the budget and finances of Radiant Life Three Rivers be managed?**
 - Three Rivers will be a ‘line item’ in the Radiant Life Church budget under the category “Campuses/Locations.”.
 - Three Rivers campus will be responsible for expenses with guidance from the main campus.
 - Every 4-6 months, the church budget will be re-evaluated by the budget committee of Radiant Life and the Elder Board in case any shifting of the budget needs to take place (i.e. looking at the intake of the tithe and comparing how the ministry budget is being spent).

- **What will the merger cost Radiant Life Sturgis?**
 - At this time we are waiting for a response from the GLR lawyer. We are not anticipating any major fees or expenses.
- **Who will decide if this merger happens?**
 - The Great Lakes Regional Board will vote (TBD). *We have a verbal that everything is a green light from the GLR.*
 - Radiant Life members will vote (June 16th).
 - Light and Life Wesleyan Church members will vote (on July 21st).
- **What will happen if the merger doesn't go through?**
 - Radiant Life Church will continue to move forward with its vision and mission to be ONE church family in multiple locations to see God's Kingdom come throughout all of St. Joseph County and Southwest Michigan.
 - Light and Life Wesleyan Church leadership has discerned the direction God is moving, Pastor Ryan Lutz would need to spend more time in God's wisdom and leading before making a certain statement.
- **I thought Light and Life Wesleyan Church was a plant out of Sturgis Wesleyan Church.**
 - LLWC was not a plant from SWC. Pastor Sam Madox left Sturgis Wesleyan Church and then started Light and Life Wesleyan Church.
- **What would the leadership structure be?**
 - ORG Chart (*see appendix*)

APPENDIX

Elder Onboarding



 **RADIANT LIFE** Elder Model

ELDERS

From the birth of the church in Acts throughout its growth, the church leadership is placed in the hands of a group of overseers or elders. They are a group called out by God for four major purposes:

- To **know** the people of the church.
- To **lead** the church with grace and truth.
- To **feed** the church through Spirit-filled, Biblical teaching.
- To **protect** the church from false teaching.

RLC Organizational Chart

