
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE GRAFTING OF HILLCITY CHURCH INTO LIFESPRING CHURCH

1. HOW DID THIS IDEA COME ABOUT?

In November of 2022 God began to speak to LifeSpring's eldership team about the idea of HillCity being grafted into LifeSpring Church. At that time we drew three important conclusions...

- a. We would not initiate a conversation. If this was the Holy Spirit speaking, we would let Him speak to Pastor Mitch and Bonnie and the eldership of HillCity.
- b. If it were to happen, we would always protect, honour and uphold the history and heritage of HillCity as a legacy church in the nation of Canada.
- c. We would make sure that Pastors Mitch and Bonnie are honoured and cared for properly because of their years of dedication and service to HillCity Church.

At the same time, God spoke very clearly to Pastor Mitch Borrows of HillCity in January of 2023. In February of 2023 Mitch and Bryan came together to discover that God had been speaking to both and a greater conversation was initiated.

2. WHY ARE WE CONSIDERING JOINING THESE TWO CHURCHES TOGETHER?

It is our belief that this will be a significant kingdom win for both congregations. We believe we can have multiplied impact by having the wonderful people of HillCity graft into LifeSpring Church. This will lead to greater health and vitality for both congregations, renewed vision and passion, an increased number of salvations and baptisms and multiplied ministry opportunities locally, nationally and globally.

3. WHAT DOES "GRAFTING" REALLY MEAN?

We will become one congregation known as LifeSpring Church, governed by the eldership team of LifeSpring. We will use LifeSpring's constitution and bylaws, statement of faith, mission statement and core values as the governing documents. All current members of HillCity Church will be given the opportunity to automatically become members of LifeSpring Church.

4. WHO IS LIFESPRING CHURCH?

LifeSpring Church is a thriving and growing church here in the city of Abbotsford. We are a congregation of about 300 people with one service at 10am. Bryan & Dyane Davis became the Lead Pastors in 2015 after spending a decade serving and leading at Mannahouse Church (formerly City Bible Church) in Portland, Oregon. We are a non-denominational charismatic church that emphasizes the need for a balance between the

Word and the Spirit. We are associated with MFI Canada and in fact Bryan sits on the apostolic team overseeing MFI Canada. We are also part of the Mannahouse Global Family, which is a network of pastors and missionaries that have been sent out from Mannahouse all over the world.

5. *WHO IS HILLCITY CHURCH*

HillCity Church has a rich history of serving the city of Abbotsford for over 60 years. We are a non-denominational charismatic church that lives out the mission to love, live and lead like Jesus. We are associated with MFI Canada and in fact our former pastor Dave McElhoes was very significant in helping MFI Canada get started as he served as the Canadian representative for MFI in the States for many years.

6. *WHAT ARE SOME OF THE UNIQUE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN LIFSPRING AND HILLCITY?*

- * Both church families love God and are passionate about pursuing His Presence.
- * Both church families love the Word of God and believe in its authority to lead us forward in life.
- * Both church families believe in the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit and desire to see the release of the gifts and power of the Spirit to transform lives.
- * Both church families are passionate about discipleship and building believers that can live victoriously in a broken, immoral world.
- * Both church families believe that God has a purpose for every person and desire to help every person discover their purpose in God.
- * Both church families are committed to expanding the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth through church planting and missions.
- * Both church families belong to a network of pastors and leaders called MFI Canada.
- * Both church families long to make an impact in our city of Abbotsford and beyond!

7. *WHAT WILL REMAIN THE SAME?*

Much of what is currently happening in each church will remain the same and in fact in many cases will be enhanced as we add in key staff and volunteers from each church. We will continue to gather for services, youth ministry and kid's ministry will continue to thrive and our goal will be to add in key ministry opportunities with the goal of loving people to life in Christ!

Over time, each current ministry will be assessed to enhance the strength and vitality of that ministry. Any strategies that will be added will only help to build a stronger local church community.

8. WHAT WILL CHANGE?

The most important aspect of this transition is the relationships that we will build together and that will simply take time. We will want to make sure all leaders and volunteers understand the needs and concerns before moving forward too quickly.

However, there will be some immediate changes. Starting on our first Sunday together, June 25, HillCity will become LifeSpring Church and will take on its branding and reputation. While at the same time we will always celebrate the rich history and legacy of HillCity Church. Along with a name change, there will be some behind the scenes processes and administration that will change as well. However, our belief is that as we come together we will have even greater effectiveness and our ability to minister to people will only be enhanced.

9. WHO WILL BE OUR PASTOR?

Bryan and Dyane Davis will be the Lead Pastors with the current eldership board of LifeSpring Church overseeing the vision and mission of the church.

10. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH PASTORS MITCH AND BONNIE?

Pastors Mitch and Bonnie will step down as Lead Pastors, handing that role to Pastors Bryan and Dyane. After helping us get through the transition season, they will be taking some much needed time off to be refreshed. They will join the LifeSpring Church eldership team in an advisory role, functioning in their strengths while continuing to pastor the people of God. Pastor Mitch will be reassigned to a pastoral position on the staff team and will help to care for and lead people. Pastors Mitch and Bonnie are a significant part of the future and we believe their most fruitful and exciting years are still ahead!

11. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CURRENT STAFF AND MINISTRY LEADERS?

Our plan from day one is to blend the staff teams and ministry teams together as much as we can for more effective ministry. Of course, this will mean some roles will shift and change initially, but we want to move slowly in making any drastic shifts forward, if we feel it is necessary. Eventually all staff and ministry leaders will be evaluated by a team to determine fit and role for the future of LifeSpring Church.

12. WHAT HAPPENS TO CURRENT MINISTRIES?

All current ministries of both LifeSpring and HillCity will eventually be evaluated according to our stated mission of “loving people to life in Christ!” If these ministries help us reach more people and raise up disciples of Jesus then there is a chance they will continue or perhaps combine with another ministry. There might be a season where a

ministry takes a step back so leadership can evaluate, assess and make recommendations so there is a greater impact going forward.

13. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ELDERS OF EACH CHURCH?

Following the final celebration service at HillCity, the current eldership of HillCity will step down and the legal work will be completed for HillCity to be grafted into LifeSpring Church. The eldership of LifeSpring will become the legal governing body. After stepping down, the elders of HillCity church will move into an advisory role to assist with the blending of the two church families. Going forward, if any former HillCity elders desire to continue in their role as elders and the Lord makes it clear to all of us, then we may begin the process of adding them back onto the team.

14. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CHURCH FACILITIES?

LifeSpring Church owns a property at 2393 West Railway Street. This property will be sold or leased to give greater financial flexibility and cover any costs incurred when HillCity is grafted into LifeSpring. Starting on Sunday June 25, the only meeting place of LifeSpring Church will be 3970 Gladwin Road.

15. WHAT WILL THE WORSHIP SERVICES BE LIKE?

Due to the similar DNA of HillCity and LifeSpring, the worship services will continue to feel very much the same. We value the Presence of God and not just singing songs, so there is an emphasis on participation and the sacrifice of praise. Our worship style is contemporary, energetic and prophetic in nature. Services are about 90 minutes in length with plenty of time given for ministry, preaching and prayer teams at the altar every week.

16. WHO WILL THE MAIN PREACHERS BE?

Pastor Bryan will lead the way with preaching most weeks while at the same time developing a team of preachers to minister.

17. HOW WILL THE FINANCES BE MANAGED?

The finances will be managed by the Financial Stewardship team of LifeSpring Church. This is a team of vision oriented men and women who steward the finances and business items of LifeSpring Church. This is a team of six people that is led by Pastor Bryan and always includes at least one other elder on the team.

18. HOW WILL CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BE TRANSFERRED?

All active members of HillCity Church will automatically be transferred into membership at LifeSpring Church. Though, we do encourage each one to eventually attend a Belong Class. The Belong Class is designed to help each person understand our history, mission and values.

19. WILL OUR AFFILIATIONS CHANGE?

Both HillCity and LifeSpring Church are part of the MFI (Ministers Fellowship International) Canada network. Pastor Bryan is on the apostolic team leading MFI Canada and in the past was an elder at Mannahouse Church in Portland (formerly City Bible Church) stewarding the vision of MFI in the States along with the eldership team there. We will continue to associate with MFI Canada as well as the Global Family Network which is a network of pastors that have been sent out from Mannahouse Church.

20. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES AND ORGANIZATIONS?

All missionaries and organizations will continue to be supported in the short term, including any financial commitments to former pastors. Eventually all missionaries and organizations will be evaluated by the stewardship team and considered for future support based primarily on active and ongoing relationship with the missionary/organization.

21. WHO MAKES THE FINAL DECISION ON HILLCITY BECOMING LIFESPRING CHURCH?

There has been an extensive process with outside counsel from Apostolic leaders both in Canada and in the U.S., along with the eldership teams of both churches and legal counsel. In the end, both churches are operating according to their constitution and bylaws and have voted to make this decision together.

22. IF THE CHURCHES JOIN TOGETHER, WHAT WILL CHANGE?

Of course the name will change, the leadership will change and processes will change, but the overall mission and vision will only be enhanced! As we enter into this new Kingdom partnership we are praying and believing that God will move in an unprecedented way in our church.

23. WHAT IS THE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE OF LIFESPRING CHURCH?

LifeSpring Church is led by a team of elders with the Lead Pastor presiding as the head elder. The Lead Pastor is responsible for mission, vision, theology and pastoral oversight with the elders supporting and leading alongside. We have a stewardship team that is responsible for the financial and business decisions of the church. We have an All Church Leadership Team made up of deacon level leaders serving all throughout the church in pastoral roles. We have a staff team that lead the day to day ministry of the church. We have a Dream Team made up of our amazing volunteers that serve in the church. Finally we have three apostolic church overseers that are Lead Pastors from other churches that have a relational connection and are available to the eldership team for support and wisdom as we navigate the challenges of a growing church.

24. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THIS PROPOSED JOINING OF CHURCHES?

After the initial announcement on May 7, we plan to have one or two weeks of Vision Meetings during the week where everyone is invited to attend, learn more about Pastors Bryan & Dyane and the leadership team at LifeSpring. These will be times of vision casting for the future as well as a time to bring any of your questions. There will be a final celebration service at each church on Sunday, June 18 and then our first service together as LifeSpring Church will be on June 25.

25. WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

There are three things you can do. First of all, we would ask you to pray and seek the Lord together with all of us. Both leadership teams have a strong confidence that the Lord has spoken and that the Holy Spirit is leading us forward into a great future. The second thing you can do is attend an upcoming Vision Meeting. At those meetings we will be answering your questions in greater detail as well as praying and seeking the Lord together for all the Lord has for us. Finally, we would ask you to lean in and sacrifice for the future. We will need all hands on deck to serve, we will need everyone to give a little extra with their financial resources and their resource of time. This will be a lot of work, but we believe the Lord is leading the way forward and will provide what we need at every step.