



## A VISION TO REVIVE + REBIRTH CHURCHES IN THE OZARKS

Pastoring a church is one of the greatest callings, yet it can also be one of the most challenging journeys. For many, the burden of declining attendance, limited resources, and an uncertain future can feel overwhelming. Questions like, *“What’s next for the church I’ve poured my life into?”* are both common and deeply personal.

Every pastor begins ministry with hope and vision, believing that God will use their leadership to create a lasting impact. Yet, seasons of difficulty can leave even the most faithful leaders feeling isolated and unsure of the path ahead. Leading a church today comes with unique challenges—cultural shifts, changing community dynamics, and the heartbreaking reality of dwindling passion within a congregation.

Still, there is hope. Galatians 6:9 reminds us of this: *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* God is not finished with His church, **and He is not finished with you.**

At The Courageous Church, we’ve witnessed firsthand how God can breathe new life into struggling congregations. We’ve walked alongside churches whose lights were flickering but not extinguished, and through prayerful partnership and Spirit-led revitalization, we’ve seen these churches revived, their communities re-engaged, and their missions reignited.

Revitalization is not a quick fix. It requires humility, bold leadership, and a willingness to embrace the future while honoring the past. It’s a courageous journey, but it’s one that brings renewal, hope, and lasting impact.

We believe that no church’s story should end in decline. Together, we can reignite your church’s vision, honor its heritage, and help you step boldly into its next chapter.

The challenges of ministry are great, but God’s faithfulness is greater. Your work matters. Your church matters. And with God’s help, the best is yet to come. God has always had a plan for the next generation, **and so do we.**

With courage,  
Pastors Tyler + Renee Padgitt

# A COURAGEOUS GUIDE TO CHURCH MERGERS + REVITALIZATION

## **Our History | A Courageous Heart for Revival**

The Courageous Church was launched on October 21, 2012 in Springfield, MO as a bible-based, non-denominational church with a vision to reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus. Under the bold leadership of Lead Pastors Tyler + Renee Padgitt, Courageous has experienced over a decade of steady growth and transformed lives.

In the early years, from 2012 to 2016 the church grew exponentially, from 137 to over 1,000 people and by 2019 the church averaged over 1,200 in regular Sunday attendance, weekly. This steady growth and unwavering commitment to community laid the foundation for the Courageous multisite church community where over 1,500 people gather in worship weekly across the Ozarks.

## **The Multisite Model | Courageously\* connecting the Ozarks to Christ and community**

Courageous exists to connect people to Christ and community. We meet people where they are and guide them on an intentional path to experience the fullness of life through Christ. Our simple church model revolves around three core discipleship components:

- Show Up | Engaging in congregational worship + teaching
- Grow Up | Deepening relationships through fellowship and small groups
- Step Up | Participation in the local congregation through service and gifts-based ministry and lay leadership.

Our multi-site model exists to expand the reach of the Gospel across the Ozarks. We believe the local church is the hope of the world and we are passionate in reviving and rebirthing churches whose light is growing dim in their local community. Through church partnership and revitalization, Courageous has a vision to plant life giving churches and chapels throughout the Ozarks—from Camdenton to Cassville, Warsaw to West Plains.

Our heart for church planting extends through financial partnerships with the Association of Related Churches (ARC), supporting hundreds of church plants annually, and Convoy of Hope, which expands our global reach. Locally, our small groups serve as “boots on the ground,” bringing tangible support to our neighbors while sharing the hope of Christ.

# THE COURAGEOUS COMMUNITY

- 3 life giving churches in the Springfield Metro region
- 1,550+ in attendance, weekly
- 500+ active volunteer “Dream Team” members



- 400+ kids and students actively participating in NextGen ministry





- 80+ lay ministry leaders
- 70+ small group communities
- 580+ people active in small groups



## **Financial Strength + Stewardship**

Healthy churches are built on spiritual vitality and wise stewardship. We are committed to both by stewarding our resources with wisdom, transparency, and integrity. Strong financial health allows us to step into revitalization opportunities with confidence, providing stability for congregations walking through seasons of transition.

We operate with a long-term mindset, budgeting each annual year based on 90% of the previous year's income. Our financial practices prioritize sustainability, generosity, and margin so that we are prepared to respond when God opens doors for ministry expansion or church revitalization.

Our leadership team maintains disciplined budgeting, regular financial review, and strategic planning to ensure that resources are deployed where they make the greatest Kingdom impact.

We believe strong stewardship honors God and creates a secure foundation for churches to move from survival to mission.

### **2026 Financial Snapshot**

Annual Operating Budget: \$2,500,000

Total Assets + Cash Reserves: \$16,755,488.97

Percentage of Budget Given to Missions + Outreach: 10%

Number of Financially Supported Campuses: 3

Capital Investment in Facilities (Last 3 Years): \$2,265,700.37

## REVITALIZATION SUCCESS STORIES

### 2012 | TRUTH TABERNACLE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH REBIRTH | COURAGEOUS NORTH



On October 21, 2012, Pastors Tyler and Renee Padgitt received bold inspiration from God—“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.” (Joshua 1:6) The Padgitts went on to revitalize and rebirth Truth Community Church into The Courageous Church. In four years, from 2012 to 2016, the church grew from 137 to over 1,000 people attending.

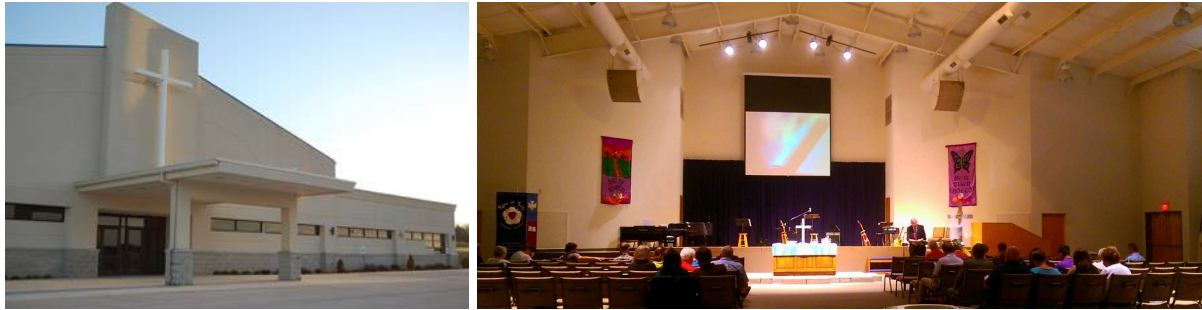
#### 2012



#### 2026



## 2017 | RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH REVITALIZATION | COURAGEOUS SOUTH



On January 8, 2017 Courageous South was launched. This campus was formerly home to River of Life Lutheran Church, whose flame grew dim. Faithful members of that church, Wayne and Kay Morris were keeping the property up and praying for new life and vision for the church. Miraculously God opened doors, and Courageous was able to purchase this location. It is now a revived, healthy, thriving local church where people can courageously connect to Christ and community.

### 2017



### 2026



## 2021 | EASTERN GATE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH REBIRTH | COURAGEOUS EAST



In June 2021, Eastern Gate Free Will Baptist Church faced significant challenges in restarting after the disruptions of the Covid pandemic. In a heartfelt plea for assistance, pastors James and Barbara Lafferty along with church leaders posted a request for help on their church sign. During an evening drive, Pastor Tyler saw the message and felt deeply moved to respond.

After much prayer and discussion, the church's leaders and board members unanimously voted to undergo a Courageous Rebirth, joining The Courageous Church as one of its campuses.



The original church building, constructed in 1976, has since been revitalized and now serves as the central headquarters and business offices for The Courageous Church. The remaining property now features a newly constructed 28,000-square-foot facility with seating for over 660 people. This space includes cutting-edge children's and youth areas designed to host more than 250 kids, equipping them with the courage to live out courageous lives.

[Watch the full Eastern Gate Revitalization Story here.](#)

## *“They Did It!” - Otho’s Church Rebirth Experience | Eastern Gate*



*“Our church had lost its pastor, music director, and we were down to only about ten people. I was the treasurer of Eastern Gate at this time and offerings would not keep up with bills. We had a help wanted sign when Pastor Tyler Padgitt came by and knew we were in trouble and wanted to know if he could help somehow. As we talked to him and he shared the size of the church and the help they could provide, no pressure. He is a man that has proven to keep his word.” - Otho McCormack*



## **What Exactly Is a Courageous “Rebirth”? | A Plan for the Next Generation**

Every church experiences seasons of vitality, growth, and decline. A Courageous Rebirth is the process of breathing new life into a struggling or dying church through partnership, financial support, and leadership oversight by The Courageous Church.

Far from erasing a church’s identity, a rebirth honors your church heritage by reigniting its vision and passion while breathing fresh hope, momentum, and service to the community.

This shift allows your church to move from survival and maintenance to revitalized ministry that transforms lives and neighborhoods, yet again. This life-giving exchange beautifully mirrors the redemptive pattern of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, empowering the church to rise anew in Spirit-filled vitality.

## **Revive the Flame | Never Cease to Shine Bright**

Our vision is to see young families, children, students, and seniors worshiping Jesus Christ on Sundays doing vibrant ministry together. We envision church communities that are healthy, thriving, and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, well-maintained grounds, and continually refreshed spaces that inspire future generations.

Churches ready for revitalization are those facing challenges that could lead to closure within three to five years. These characteristics often include:

- Lack of a bible guided, new testament model of governing oversight
- Absence of a development plan for lay leaders
- Inadequate financial resources to support growth and vision
- Decreasing engagement and impact within the local community
- Difficulty to fully transition ministry to the next generation

When a church reaches these crossroads, revitalization is the pathway to rekindling the flame and shining brightly once again.

## Who Do We Become? | Church Identity, Theology, + Denominational Alignment

Courageous is a non-denominational, independent Christian church rooted in the Gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our Bible-based and Christ-centered foundation allows us the freedom to align and expand without denominational constraints.

During a revitalization and rebirth merger, Courageous partners with churches to review foundational documents such as articles of incorporation, bylaws, and statements of belief. To ensure alignment and sustainability, a church would need to transition out of its current denomination and donate its assets and liabilities to The Courageous Church.

This transition ensures that the church's legacy continues with renewed strength and purpose, aligned with the mission of Courageous.

## What Happens To Our Leadership + Membership? | Church Governance

Courageous is governed by a Board of Elders, as described in 1 Timothy 3, who oversee matters of doctrine, governance, and indebtedness. A team of overseers provides spiritual protection and accountability for Lead Pastors Tyler + Renee Padgitt while day-to-day operations are managed by church staff.

Each Courageous location is led by a Campus Pastor, who is identified by and accountable to the Lead Pastor. Campus Pastors are responsible for shepherding their congregations, building ministry teams, and officiating ceremonies like weddings and funerals.

Courageous does not practice formal church membership. Instead, we invite attendees to become partners by engaging in small groups, serving faithfully, and joining the Dream Team—a dedicated group of volunteers who help drive our mission forward. We call this assimilation process, “The Courageous Life.”

Existing leaders within your church may transition into lay leadership roles within the Dream Team or join the local pastoral care team for their local campus.

## **How Will We Express Ourselves? | Church Values**

Courageous has four core values that define our philosophy and expression of ministry. Our values center us, stabilize us, and define our common ground as a faith community.

- We put Jesus First | We keep Jesus first in our heart, head, homes, and our hands.
- We are Relationally Intense | We pursue authentic relationships.
- We seek to serve | We stay others focused.
- We are bold, not boring! | We have a good time!

## **What Kind of Music Will We Sing? | Worship Style**

Courageous' worship style is dynamic and engaging, blending contemporary and gospel music to communicate timeless truths in culturally relevant ways. While the Gospel message never changes, our methods evolve to reach each generation effectively, ensuring every worship experience is vibrant and impactful. Live worship is a distinctive feature of every Courageous location.

## **How Will We Get Taught Sermons? | Preaching + Teaching**

Weekend sermons at Courageous are delivered live from a central campus and broadcast out to other campuses via technology. A Courageous location may receive the message weekly via video, have a local message by a campus pastor, or a combination of both.

## **What Sacraments Do You Participate In? | Communion + Baptism**

Communion and baptism are regularly celebrated at Courageous, based on the seasonal church calendar. Neither baptisms nor communion require classes or church membership to engage in.

## Next Steps

There is hope for churches whose light is fading within their community. We believe church revitalization is a supernatural work of God that breathes new life into a congregation and a renews its commitment to the ministry work of the Great Commission—to courageously\* connect people to Christ and community.

## Revitalization Timeline + Milestones

- Church board meets with Courageous Leadership
- Church board reviews and evaluates next steps
- Church board establishes vote to pursue rebirth + revitalization with Courageous
- Church board presents rebirth + revitalization plan to congregation
- Courageous Lead Pastors meet with existing congregation + church family
- Final service planned and supported by Courageous leadership
- Building closed and construction begins
- Celebration + dedication service for new Courageous campus

If your church is struggling, we would love to have a conversation about what a Courageous revitalization and rebirth could look like for you.

Contact us at [info@courageouschurch.cc](mailto:info@courageouschurch.cc)

*God has always had a plan for the next generation, and so do we.*