GatherGrowGo

LOCAL FAITH. TRUSTED NEIGHBORS. REAL WORK.

One church. One neighborhood. Countless relationships.

CHURCH-LED / NEIGHBORHOOD-ROOTED / GOSPEL-CENTERED

Establishing a Christian Economy

Organizing the gifts of the church to serve neighbors, create opportunity, and introduce people to Jesus Christ.

THE INVITATION

The neighborhood is our mission field.
Our people are already there.

A WHITE PAPER FOR CHURCHES, BUSINESS OWNERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

GatherGrowGo.net

NOVEMBER 2026 | DISCUSSION DRAFT

THE EXECUTIVE CASE

Executive summary

Every Sunday, churches gather people whose talents and enterprises shape their neighborhoods all week long. Yet a member may not know the plumber, bookkeeper, restaurant owner, employer, designer, or nonprofit leader sitting a few rows away. **The opportunity is not to build another directory. It is to organize the church for mission in everyday economic life.**

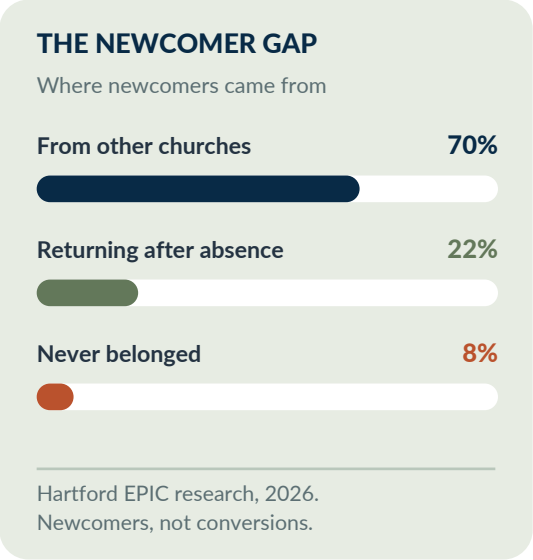
Gather Grow Go (G³) proposes a church-led Christian economy built from the neighborhood outward. Churches help members identify and support one another's work. Business owners gain trusted introductions and a role in serving their communities. Neighbors receive useful services, mentoring, employment pathways, and acts of generosity. As relationships deepen, believers gain natural opportunities to introduce people to Jesus Christ and invite them into the life of the church.

The goal is not simply to shift transactions among Christians or swell attendance through church transfers. The goal is to **create relationships with people outside church life, meet real neighborhood needs, and introduce new believers to Jesus Christ.** Commerce provides occasions for trust and service; the church proclaims the gospel and makes disciples.

Biblical purpose, practical delivery. Christ sends His church to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20); James 2:15-17 commands practical care and Galatians 6:10 calls us to do good to all. G³ organizes the neighborhood relationships; **Connect+Go is the complementary pathway for service requests, quotes, and work.**

Churches may welcome newcomers while reaching relatively few people with no prior congregational connection. In Hartford Institute research summarized in February 2026, **70% of newcomers had come from other churches, 22% returned after a long absence, and 8% had never belonged to a congregation.** [1]

Those categories describe membership history, not conversions. They make one point unavoidable: **attendance growth and reaching new people with the gospel are not the same measure.**



THE WHITE PAPER

Faith at work. Mission next door.

Churches do not lack capable people. They often lack a deliberate way to discover those people, connect their work, and bring their collective capacity to bear on the needs just beyond the church doors. The vision is a voluntary Christian economic fellowship that strengthens families, serves neighbors, and gives the church more opportunities to share the gospel.

> **The marketplace is the tool. The neighborhood is the mission field. Making disciples is the purpose.**

G³ turns that calling into a working model: **Gather** the people and discover their gifts; **Grow** relationships through local markets, mentoring and trusted introductions; **Go** into the neighborhood with quality work, service, hospitality, generosity and a clear invitation to faith.

A proposed first step is simple: one church, a voluntary group of business owners and skilled members, a listening effort in a nearby neighborhood, and one measurable 90-day pilot.

A biblical vision before a business model

The Great Commission is the purpose. Matthew 28:18-20 calls disciples to make disciples, baptize, and teach obedience to Jesus. G³ cannot accomplish that through a directory or a financial transaction. The church must remain responsible for proclaiming the gospel, nurturing new believers, and making disciples.

The body of Christ brings the people. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Paul describes a church whose many members need one another. The passage addresses spiritual membership and mutual care, not a commercial directory. G³ draws a practical application: identify the diverse abilities of believers and create paths to serve together, without confusing a business skill with a spiritual gift.

Faith becomes visible in action. James 2:15-17 refuses to separate words of concern from care for a neighbor in need. Ephesians 4:28 presents honest work as a way to have something to share. Together, they frame business participation as more than earning money: faithful work can support households, meet needs, and make generosity possible.

The neighborhood is included. Galatians 6:10 calls believers to do good to all, while giving special attention to the household of faith. Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) challenges narrow

definitions of neighbor. These texts support a network that strengthens Christian fellowship while serving people beyond church membership.

> **G³ is not a substitute for the church. It is one practical way the church can live out its mission between Sundays.**

01 / THE MISSION

The church is sent into its neighborhood

Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). That mission does not begin and end inside a sanctuary. It unfolds where people live, work, shop, raise families, struggle financially, and make decisions every day. A church committed to gaining new believers must be intentional about meeting people who have no established connection to the congregation.

A healthy church welcomes transfers, serves returning worshipers, and cares for its current members. But those are not substitutes for sharing the gospel with people who are not yet following Christ. G³ gives congregations one practical way to widen their circle of everyday relationships.

A business owner may meet dozens of neighbors a week. A contractor enters homes. A restaurant welcomes families. A bookkeeper hears the struggles of another entrepreneur. A tradesperson sees the challenges in a neighborhood. **These are not merely commercial touchpoints; they are opportunities for people to be known, respected, helped, and, when welcome, invited to know Christ.**

Two commitments that belong together

- **Make the gospel unmistakable.** G³ exists to help churches create genuine relationships in which believers can share the hope of Jesus Christ, invite others to worship, and support discipleship.
- **Make service unconditional.** Fair pricing, food assistance, mentorship, and neighborly kindness must not depend on attending church or professing faith. Gospel conversations are invitations, not a price for receiving help.

The mission is both spiritual and practical. James 2:15-17 challenges faith that speaks but does not act. Galatians 6:10 calls believers to do good broadly and especially to the household of faith. G³ applies those principles through accountable work and generous neighborhood relationships.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / MATTHEW 28:19 (EXCERPT) · CEB

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations"

G³ ILLUSTRATION

A church trains its member-owned businesses and volunteers to serve neighbors with honesty, invite questions about their faith, and offer genuine opportunities to learn more about Jesus. Good service is an opening for relationships; pastors and believers still have to teach and disciple.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / GALATIANS 6:10 · CEB

"So then, let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith."

G³ ILLUSTRATION

A G³ member hires a qualified Christian tradesperson and, after good work, makes a responsible referral. The same church hosts a business-help clinic for nearby residents of every background. Fellowship within the church and practical service beyond it reinforce each other.

02 / THE EVIDENCE

Church growth is not the same as new believers

Hartford International University reported in February 2026 that, among newcomers studied in its EPIC research, 70% came from other churches, 22% returned after long absences, and 8% had never belonged to a congregation. This is a description of how people arrived at congregations; it does not indicate how many became Christians. [1]

27% (2016) → 20% (2025)

Share of new attendees who had not previously attended church

Lifeway pastor estimates (2026 report)

A separate Lifeway Research survey reported in September 2026 found a decline in pastors' estimates of newcomers who had not previously attended church: from 27% in 2016 to 20% in 2025. The same study reported fewer new commitments to Christ per 100 worship attendees, according to pastors: 16 in 2016

versus 11 in 2025. Those commitments are a different measure from congregational newcomers or confirmed conversions. [2]

The findings do not suggest that all churches are failing or that transfer growth lacks value. They do suggest a strategic question every church should ask: **are we growing mainly by welcoming people already connected to church life, or are we also reaching neighbors who have never known Christ?**

A church-led neighborhood marketplace will not automatically create new believers. It can, however, give believers more frequent, credible, non-coercive opportunities to meet, serve, pray with, and invite people who would not begin their relationship with a church by walking through its front door.

Paul's language in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 reminds churches that the work of planting and watering is not the same as causing spiritual growth. G³ should encourage faithful witness and patient discipleship without implying that any outreach tactic can produce conversion on demand.

03 / THE ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITY

Make the congregation visible to itself

A congregation often knows who attends but not who builds, repairs, counsels, designs, hires, delivers, teaches, or owns a business. Economic gifts are distributed across the pews yet seldom organized. The first task is not fundraising or software. It is **finding out what gifts, businesses, and capacities God has already placed among the people.**

First Peter 4:10 describes believers as stewards who use what they have received to serve one another. Romans 12:4-13 portrays a community marked by different functions, sincere love, generosity, and hospitality. These passages invite leaders to ask not only "Who could buy from whom?" but "Who is equipped to help, train, employ, encourage, or welcome a neighbor?"

A voluntary church economic inventory

- **Business and nonprofit profiles:** member-managed listings explaining real services, locations, qualifications, and contact methods, with shareable URLs and QR codes.
- **Skills and professional capacity:** people who can mentor, teach, review a proposal, introduce a local employer, or contribute expertise to a project, with their consent.
- **Community needs:** jobs, repairs, practical training, home services, affordable professional help, and nonprofit projects surfaced through listening and local partnerships.
- **Connection pathways:** a church marketplace for affiliated members, a broader G³ network where members opt in, and public neighborhood programs that welcome people of every background.

The goal is not a church-controlled commercial monopoly. It is an organized, voluntary network where people can discover reliable providers, make informed choices, and put resources to work for the good of

their community. A church affiliation is not an endorsement of every transaction; credentials and conduct must be assessed on their merits.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27 · CEB

"Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. Certainly the body isn't one part but many. If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? But as it is, there are many parts but one body. So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. You are the body of Christ and parts of each other."

G³ ILLUSTRATION

A bookkeeper, carpenter, designer, restaurant owner, and nonprofit leader from several churches help a neighborhood project move forward. No one possesses every skill; each contribution matters. Paul is describing the body of Christ, not a business directory. G³ applies the principle of mutual care without treating professional skills as identical to spiritual gifts.

04 / THE MARKETPLACE

Build outward: congregation, neighborhood, city

G³ is most useful when the starting point is small enough to be personal and large enough to create meaningful connections. Its structure should expand in three connected circles.

Circle	Purpose and practical activity
1 | Inside the church	Members discover the congregation's businesses, skills and nonprofit needs; pastors and organizers invite participation without favoring donors or larger companies.
2 | In the neighborhood	Church businesses and volunteers meet local residents, listen to needs, support existing enterprises, offer mentoring, and serve customers whether or not they share Christian beliefs.
3 | Across the city	Opt-in directories, gatherings and referrals connect participating churches, business owners, nonprofits and neighborhood initiatives across congregational boundaries.

A church-branded marketplace preserves the local identity and relationships of each congregation. Wider G³ visibility adds scale without requiring the church to surrender its ministry role. Public-facing neighborhood programs should be clearly distinguished from Christian membership credentials, so neighbors do not need to make a faith claim to receive service or support.

In Jeremiah 29:7, God instructs exiles to seek the welfare of the city where they live. That instruction was given in a specific historical setting; G³ applies its enduring concern for neighbors' welfare rather than claiming a promise of economic prosperity. Luke 10:25-37 similarly places the needs of the neighbor ahead of group boundaries.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / JEREMIAH 29:7 · CEB

"Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare."

G³ ILLUSTRATION

A church listens to the owners and residents on the streets surrounding its building. Its members offer mentoring, buy needed local services, and organize a neighborhood enterprise clinic. The original instruction addressed exiles in Babylon; this is an application of seeking the community's welfare, not a prosperity guarantee.

05 / THE OPERATING MODEL

Gather. Grow. Go.

Gather: identify gifts and make introductions

Acts 2:42-47 portrays believers committed to teaching, fellowship, prayer, and care for people in need. It does not mandate a modern marketplace, but it shows why belonging and practical generosity should remain connected in any church-led initiative.

Invite owners, workers, nonprofit leaders, and interested neighbors into one visible network. Create useful profiles, hold a neighborhood business breakfast, and introduce people by the actual problems they can solve. A personal introduction is more valuable than an anonymous impression.

Grow: develop capability and trust

Proverbs 11:1 rejects dishonest measurement, and Colossians 3:23-24 calls believers to wholehearted work offered to the Lord. In G³ that means accurate profiles, competent service, clear estimates, fair dealing, prompt correction of mistakes, and mentoring that improves real capability.

Organize mentoring, skills exchanges, peer learning, customer-service training, and professional referrals. Help a new entrepreneur build a realistic price list. Connect a church member seeking employment with a qualified employer. Let established businesses teach emerging owners what they have learned.

Go: deliver work, serve needs, and share faith

Matthew 28:19-20 directs the church outward in disciple-making, while Galatians 6:10 calls believers to practical good. Going therefore includes service and hospitality alongside clear, respectful opportunities to explain who Jesus is and why the church serves.

Turn relationships into responsible paid work, volunteer service, outreach projects, hospitality, and invitations to learn more about Christ. G³ members may use Connect+Go as a complementary pathway for service requests, quotes, and project follow-through. The distinction between the marketplace and the service tool is made explicit in the next section; integrations must be verified before claims of a seamless handoff are made.

> **The point is not to make church members customers first. It is to make them neighbors, co-workers, witnesses, and servants.**

06 / THE PRACTICAL CONNECTION

Where Connect+Go fits: from trust to a real job

Gather Grow Go and Connect+Go are complementary, but they serve different purposes. **G³ organizes a church-connected community of Christian businesses, members, nonprofits, and neighbors. Connect+Go provides a practical service-connection pathway intended to help a customer or organization move from discovering a provider toward requesting work, discussing a quote, and following through.** A directory creates visibility; a working transaction pathway helps turn an introduction into useful service.

For example, a resident discovers a qualified local electrician through a G³ church marketplace or QR-linked profile. The resident can contact the business directly; where the service is supported, Connect+Go can be offered as an optional way to submit a request, receive an estimate, and organize next steps. The value lies in linking trusted discovery with practical execution, not forcing members into one commercial channel.

A connected but distinct three-stage journey

Step	What happens
1 | G³: discover and belong	A church invites member businesses and nonprofits to create accurate profiles; neighbors find relevant local services through direct links, a church-branded directory, gatherings or personal referrals.
2 | Connect+Go: request and quote	When appropriate and available, the customer can move into Connect+Go to describe a need, seek a professional response, and discuss the scope and price of the work.
3 | Service and relationships	Qualified providers complete work with clear terms; the relationships continue through church gatherings, appropriate follow-up, fair referrals, and opportunities for service.

G³ is not a payment processor, a guarantee of contractor quality, or a substitute for ordinary customer diligence. Participation in Connect+Go should be disclosed, optional where feasible, and clearly separate from church membership or a faith affirmation. The online data handoff, account synchronization, and deeper transactional integration are **proposed or subject to verification**, not represented here as already implemented.

The church does not need to own every step of a commercial transaction. It can create the conditions for honest work and genuine fellowship, then use appropriate tools to help work happen responsibly. That distinction protects ministry integrity and the independence of participating businesses.

07 / A NEIGHBORHOOD EXAMPLE

A Saturday that becomes a relationship

Imagine a church invites 25 local small-business owners and residents to a Saturday gathering. Some belong to the church. Others have never visited it. People share what they do and what they need: home repairs, steady employment, bookkeeping, better marketing, childcare referrals, or help finding customers.

A Christian bookkeeper offers a short training on pricing and records. A contractor offers a fair quote to a resident. A church volunteer introduces an aspiring business owner to a mentor. A nonprofit invites professionals to support a neighborhood project. People meet again the following month; useful conversations become work, and work becomes trust.

Along the way, believers explain why they are serving, offer prayer where it is welcome, and invite neighbors to worship, meals, or conversations about Jesus. No one must accept the invitation to receive honest service or practical help. **The church has not used business to purchase a hearing for the gospel; it has earned the right to be known as a caring neighbor and has freely shared its faith.**

This is an illustrative scenario, not a claim of completed G³ outcomes. Its purpose is to show why economic cooperation can create ongoing relationships far more meaningful than a one-time advertisement or event.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / JAMES 2:15–17 · CEB

"Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity."

G³ ILLUSTRATION

A church learns that a nearby family lacks both food and steady income. Members meet the immediate need, then offer employment referrals or an appropriate business-mentoring pathway. Practical care comes first; longer-term livelihood support complements, rather than replaces, urgent help.

A proposed church-based enterprise incubator

The original G³ concept includes something more ambitious than a directory: a small, church-supported business-help cohort for neighbors who want to improve an existing livelihood or test self-employment. A realistic first cohort might serve six to ten people over eight to twelve weeks. These are planning parameters, not documented operating results.

- **Listen and assess:** learn each participant's strengths, goals, constraints, and whether employment or business ownership makes sense.
- **Test demand:** talk to potential customers and validate a modest offer before investing heavily.
- **Build the basics:** develop fair pricing, estimates, recordkeeping, communication and a repeatable service process.
- **Connect expertise:** introduce qualified mentors and refer legal, tax, insurance or licensing matters to appropriate professionals.
- **Launch carefully and follow through:** help willing participants find their first customers, collect honest feedback, and review progress after the cohort.

Material needs are addressed first. A neighbor does not have to attend a service or profess Christian belief to receive fair assistance. Churches may invite participants into worship or conversations about Jesus, but only as genuine invitations. This approach preserves the faith identity of the Christian marketplace and a distinct, open pathway for neighborhood support.

08 / LOCAL GENEROSITY

When enterprise strengthens service and mission

An organized network can make generosity more practical. Rather than asking only for donations, a church can identify a needed repair, a mentoring gap, a training opportunity, or a family whose path to stable income needs support. Business members can decide whether to give time, provide materials, hire responsibly, donate a service, or fund a project. Paid work and donated work should always be clearly distinguished.

Ephesians 4:28 links honest labor with the capacity to help people in need. Second Corinthians 9:7 emphasizes willing rather than pressured giving. G³ should cultivate a culture where prosperous businesses can support service and mission, while respecting the freedom and financial limits of each participant.

Generosity must flow from responsible stewardship, not pressure to offer free labor or disclose confidential business information. Churches should set transparent project criteria, honor professional competence, and measure whether help was actually useful.

What each partner gains

Participant	Distinct value
Church or ministry	A practical bridge from Sunday life to neighborhood relationships, volunteer skills, outreach activity, and accountable service.
Independent business owner	Discoverability, referrals, peer support, professional credibility earned through conduct, and opportunities to serve.
Member or household	More informed local choices, stronger relationships, and the chance to use everyday purchasing decisions intentionally.
Neighbor outside the church	A fair opportunity to receive services, business coaching, employment connections, and authentic friendship without religious preconditions.
Nonprofit or local partner	Access to skills, collaborators, volunteers, in-kind capacity, and appropriately governed support for community work.
Connect+Go service partner	A distinct pathway for service requests, estimates and work coordination, complementing G³ discovery while retaining its own commercial terms and responsibilities.

Funding arrangements that support local ministries, church planting, or missions may be considered, but they must be documented, authorized, and reported honestly. No organization should promise a charitable allocation or revenue share before governance, contractual, and tax requirements are settled.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / EPHESIANS 4:28 · CEB

"Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need."

G³ ILLUSTRATION

An experienced business owner helps a new entrepreneur develop honest pricing, basic bookkeeping, and customer communication. As the enterprise becomes sustainable, the owner has more capacity to care for a household and give to others. The point is the connection between productive work and generosity, not an assumption of prior wrongdoing.

09 / THE ECONOMIC DIFFERENCE

Relationship-first, not pay-to-play

Digital advertising platforms can be useful. The problem is not that every technology company is hostile to faith; it is that a small business often has to purchase repeated visibility through systems it does not control. G³ proposes a different way for congregational and neighborhood relationships to be discovered.

Proverbs 11:1 places honest measures at the center of trustworthy exchange. James 2:1-9 challenges favoritism toward the wealthy within Christian fellowship. Those principles shape G³'s proposal: a platform should not confuse money with merit, a large advertising budget with trustworthiness, or financial influence with spiritual standing.

- **No bought ranking:** members do not pay to appear above neighbors in the directory or obtain implied spiritual endorsements.
- **Fair access:** basic participation should be inexpensive or supported by fee waivers; published costs should cover real service, not privileged attention.
- **Member control:** business owners maintain accurate profiles, control shared contact information, and use direct links or QR codes to carry their reputation into real conversations.
- **Accountability:** complaint procedures, honest pricing, proper credentials, responsible referrals, and respect for customer choice apply to everyone.

G³ cannot realistically operate without any outside technology or operating expense. The meaningful commitment is independence from *purchased visibility as the gatekeeper of local trust*, not a claim that no external provider will ever host a server, process a payment, or deliver a message.

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION / PROVERBS 11:1 · CEB

"The LORD detests dishonest scales, but delights in an accurate weight."

G³ ILLUSTRATION

A G³ business provides a clear quote, discloses exclusions, and charges only for agreed work. If an error causes an overcharge, the owner corrects it. Fair ranking and transparent service information matter too: a large advertising budget must never be presented as evidence of integrity.

10 / A PILOT THE CHURCH CAN OWN

A 90-day neighborhood launch

Timeframe	Action and accountable lead
Days 1–30 | Listen	Church coordinator and business volunteers recruit an initial group, inventory member skills, identify a local service area, ask neighbors about needs, confirm profile consent, and set clear policies.
Days 31–60 | Connect	Host a practical gathering, publish accurate profiles, match mentors and needs, facilitate introductions, offer a simple neighborhood business-help session, and invite voluntary faith conversations.
Days 61–90 | Serve and learn	Support early work and service projects, follow up on referrals, record reported outcomes, document any pastoral follow-up invited by participants, and decide what to improve or sustain.

A first cohort might include 15-30 participating businesses or skilled members, a neighborhood listening event, and one service or mentoring initiative. These are suggested pilot parameters, not reported G³ results. A church should begin with the capacity it can actually sustain.

Luke 14:28-30 commends counting the cost before undertaking a project. For G³ that means a realistic coordinator workload, consent policies, fair standards, a workable budget, and honest reporting. An ambitious launch that a congregation cannot sustain does not serve the neighborhood well.

Suggested responsibilities

- **Pastoral leader:** keeps discipleship, respectful evangelism, and congregational mission central.
- **Marketplace coordinator:** manages profiles, consent, volunteer scheduling, referrals, and follow-up.
- **Business advisory team:** verifies relevant expertise, teaches practical skills, and maintains standards for conduct and referrals.
- **Neighborhood liaison:** listens to local residents and partners, including people not involved with any church.

11 / MEASURING FRUIT

Count both faithful service and spiritual engagement

A Christian economy cannot prove its value with website visits alone. Neither should leaders report every marketplace inquiry as evangelism or every event attendee as a new believer. Set separate measures for practical value, gospel engagement, and discipleship follow-through.

Dimension	Evidence to track carefully
Economic and service	Completed profiles, useful introductions, qualified referrals, optional Connect+Go requests/quotes when verifiable, work performed (member-reported unless verified), jobs or training pathways, mentoring hours, needs met.
Neighborhood relationships	First-time connections with neighbors outside the church, repeat participation, meals or conversations, neighbor feedback, trust and complaint resolution.
Gospel and discipleship	Voluntary conversations about Jesus, requests for prayer, invitations accepted, self-reported professions of faith, and ongoing discipleship relationships, recorded only with suitable privacy and consent.
Church stewardship	Volunteer load, accessibility, costs, qualified member participation, any approved ministry support and whether outcomes justify continuing.

The purpose of these measures is faithfulness and learning, not turning people into sales leads. Personal spiritual experiences should never be publicly claimed, photographed, or used in promotion without permission. Church leaders should distinguish a conversation, a profession of faith, baptism, and ongoing discipleship rather than treating them as interchangeable statistics.

Paul's picture of planting and watering in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 is a reminder of humility: the church is called to faithfulness, but spiritual life is God's work. Report service honestly and celebrate new believers without treating conversion as a sales conversion rate.

12 / THE INVITATION

Start with the church. Reach the street.

The church already possesses what a platform cannot manufacture: people who know one another, shared conviction, repeated opportunities to meet, local presence, and the calling to love their neighbors. G³ proposes organizing those gifts so a congregation can do more than purchase software or distribute flyers. It can participate in the economic and social life of the neighborhood with purpose.

John 13:34-35 calls disciples to be known by their love for one another; Matthew 5:16 calls them to live so their good works point to God; and Matthew 28:18-20 sends them to make disciples. These are not three competing priorities. They describe a church whose inner fellowship and outward witness belong together.

Let an owner be found. Let a young worker be mentored. Let a neighbor receive excellent service. Let a family see generosity expressed in action. Let Christian relationships make space for honest conversations about Christ. And let the church measure success not merely in transfers or membership counts, but in neighbors reached, needs met, disciples made, and lives changed.

> **Gather the church. Grow the neighborhood relationships. Go make disciples.**

The invitation to partner is concrete: identify one church, one neighborhood, a capable coordinator, and a small group willing to serve. Begin there, document what works, and build outward with integrity.

Three decisions that turn the vision into action

- **A church commits to organize.** Appoint a coordinator, invite member businesses and skilled volunteers, and create a respectful way to discover the gifts already present in the congregation.
- **Business owners commit to participate.** Maintain accurate profiles, make responsible introductions, deliver excellent work, and contribute time or expertise where they are genuinely able.
- **Ministry leaders commit to reach outward.** Listen to their immediate neighbors, create welcoming gatherings, serve without strings attached, and provide appropriate opportunities for prayer, gospel conversations, and discipleship.

RESEARCH, SOURCES & SCOPE

Evidence and implementation notes

[1] Hartford International University / Hartford Institute for Religion Research. "HIRR Shares Post-Pandemic Congregational Insights on Podcast," February 11, 2026. Reports that among newcomers in its EPIC research, 70% came from other congregations, 22% returned after long absences, and 8% had never belonged to any congregation. These are origin categories, **not** conversion rates. View source.

[2] Aaron Earls / Lifeway Research. "Pastors report growing attendance, but fewer unchurched newcomers," September 1, 2026, published by Baptist Press and syndicated outlets. Based on a survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors fielded in 2025; new-attendee share reported as 27% in 2016 versus 20% in 2025, and reported commitments to Christ per 100 attendees as 16 versus 11. These are separate measures with different definitions and are not validated conversion counts. View report.

[3] Common English Bible. Matthew 28:19, CEB. The paper uses a short selected excerpt from this passage; the longer CEB passages are reproduced from the user-supplied original white paper. Read Scripture source.

Biblical references

Disciple-making and witness: Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:16; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7. Jesus gives the church its mission. Good works and relationships provide context for faithful witness, not a substitute for proclaiming the gospel.

Mutual care and stewardship: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:4-13; Acts 2:42-47. The body cares for each member, uses its diverse gifts, practices hospitality, and shares with people in need. Occupational roles are an application, not identical to spiritual gifts.

Work, integrity, and generosity: Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 11:1; Colossians 3:23-24; 2 Corinthians 9:7; James 2:1-9; James 2:15-17. The economy described here depends on excellent work, honest exchange, no favoritism, practical care, and willing generosity.

The good of neighbors: Galatians 6:10; Jeremiah 29:7; Luke 10:25-37; Luke 14:12-14; Luke 14:28-30. The church serves people beyond its membership with practical love, hospitality, and responsible planning. Jeremiah's instruction had a specific original setting; the neighborhood application is a principle, not a prosperity guarantee.

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Claims, privacy and partnership status

This is a strategy and position paper for discussion, not a claim that all proposed church marketplaces, incubators, revenue arrangements, or neighborhood programs are operating today. G³ currently has member-managed profiles and shareable links/QR functionality; integrations, church affiliation workflows and partnerships require verification and permission before being represented as live or endorsed. References to church-branded marketplaces describe a proposed model, not an endorsement from a named church. Connect+Go is described as a companion transaction and service-connection pathway; any real-time profile sync, cross-app handoff, web/mobile account integration, or quote function should be represented as operational only when verified.

The proposed network does not exclude non-Christians from lawful services, employment, or neighborhood support. Christian-identified marketplace membership should be transparent and voluntary, and public outreach should not condition material help on professions of faith. Financial support arrangements require appropriate documentation, board oversight, and qualified legal and tax review. Report outcome figures as self-reported unless independently verified.