

FULLY ALIVE

FORMED BY LOVE FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD

A Five-Year Vision | 2027–2031



Gathering Network

A photograph of a sunlit room, likely a study or a small office, viewed through a dark wooden doorway. The room features a large bay window with multiple panes, through which a view of a city or landscape is visible. A large, leafy plant in a dark pot stands in front of the window. Below the window is a white radiator. In the center of the room, there is a small wooden table with two chairs. To the left, a wooden cabinet with several drawers holds a vase with dried flowers. To the right, a portion of a bed with dark bedding is visible. The floor is made of dark wood, and a light-colored rug is placed under the table and chairs. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text "A letter from the Elders, Board, and Staff..." is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

**A letter from
the Elders,
Board, and
Staff...**

Gathering Network family,

What would it mean for every single one of us to be fully alive in Christ?

Being fully alive in Christ doesn't mean life is easy or we've arrived.

It means we are increasingly alive to God—receiving his love, being formed in the way of Jesus, and joining his work in the world with joy.

For many people in North America today, the baseline soul-reality is **overwhelmed and overstimulated**. We feel it too. When that becomes normal, self-preservation easily becomes our survival skill. We conserve our physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, and financial energy—just trying to make it through.

But God desires more for us than survival. He wants us to live the life Jesus died to give us. So this year, we are putting before you a **five year vision**, asking:

What kind of culture could we become over the next five years?

Culture is simply the patterns and habits of our life together that make us who we are in the world. Over the next five years, we want prayer, discipleship, mission, generosity, and fruitfulness to increasingly shape us into **Jesus people. Kingdom culture.**

As your leaders, we are committing ourselves to this life alongside you. We know it's a big vision. But we heard a wise man say, ***"Attempt something so big that unless God intervenes, it is bound to fail."***

This book is the fruit of months of discernment and deliberation among our Elders, Board, and Staff. Together, we did our best to listen to God on behalf of our community. These pages share where we believe He is leading us.

So, here's to a big dream. Let's set our hearts on every single one of us being fully alive in Christ.

With love and expectation...

2026 BIG WINS...so far.

KIDS CAMP!

Our kids camp brought together 14 kids, 5 teens, 4 adults, and a wonderful family who lead worship for an unforgettable weekend of worshipping, diving into God's Word, and deepening our relationships with one another. We swam, played games, and bought as much as we could at the snack shack! SO FUN!



HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE CHURCH:

30–35 different kids have come through the High School House Church this year. Some came once, others became regulars, but they've all had a place to sit at the table. They experienced prayer and worship, and heard the Word of God!



MENS GROUP:

This is a testimony from a Men's Group participant: *"Yesterday was such a wild day. I've had a few days lately where I've seriously felt the fruit of all the work I've done to get my heart back and grow in my emotions. Been processing it with my wife and it's been so good!"* Praise God!



PRAY KC:

What a year it's been in our partnership with Pray KC! So many of you participated in the quarterly Nights with God and the North America Prayer Summit. We believe God made a huge deposit in our collective faith and put fresh wind in the sails of our Network. Here's to 2027!



PURSUING THE HEART OF THE MATTER COURSE:

Through this course by Alice Bourdon, people honestly explored their stories and invited God into painful places. They began to rediscover who He made them to be—and take steps toward living more fully and freely as His beloved sons and daughters.



ANDREW MCCLANAHAN:

We hired Andrew on the last day of last year and he started his role in early January. This year has been a year of learning the story of the Gathering Network and building relationships. We are so excited about the future of his leadership and impact at the GN!

Testimonies of Transformation...

Learning to Pray Out Loud: Thalia Day

"Through our prayer activities, we've really seen people grow in the muscle of praying out loud. Some came in with anxiety or fear around voicing their prayers, and it's been really cool to watch people step out in faith and hear them grow in confidence."

Staying Hopeful Through Hard Seasons: Parker Heying

"Over five years, our group has walked through divorce, moves, new marriages, new jobs, new careers, new babies, and all kinds of identity changes. Through honest confession, prayer, and doing life together, we've been able to support one another and help each other choose hope again and again."

Serving in Practical Ways: Veronica Bourdon

"I see people in our house church sacrificing in really practical ways—like spending a Saturday helping a dad build a railing so his wife and daughters could safely enjoy their front porch. It reminds me that mission isn't always some big organized thing; sometimes it's simply seeing a need and saying, 'We can do something about that.'"

Theo at Kids Camp: Lindsey Poblete

"At Kids Camp, we see disciples making disciples as teens and adults lead our children in worship, Scripture, and everyday examples of following Jesus. After aging out of camp, Theo Davis returned this year with a servant's heart, ready to help, lead, and make camp better for younger kids. He had seen the joy and leadership of the teens the year before and wanted to be part of it. What he experienced, he began to pass on."

Learning to Contribute: Lars Erickson

"We've seen people take really practical steps toward contributing to the life of our house church—when we send details about our gathering a few days ahead, they respond with whether they're coming, bring food, and take ownership of what it means to keep the thing going. It may seem small, but these contributions are a huge indicator of growth and maturity."

Finding a Safe Place in Church: Grace Nanney

"She had spent most of her life on the periphery of church because her parents were involved but church was never really expected of her. This year she started coming to our house church, and it's been so sweet to watch her feel safe, open up, share her story, receive prayer, and really flourish."

**WE ARE MOVING
FROM
SELF-
PRESERVATION
TO
KINGDOM
FRUITFULNESS
FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND THE
GOOD OF THE
WORLD**

Over the next five
years we are taking
deliberate steps to
become more of a
certain kind of
people....

Jesus people.
Kingdom culture.

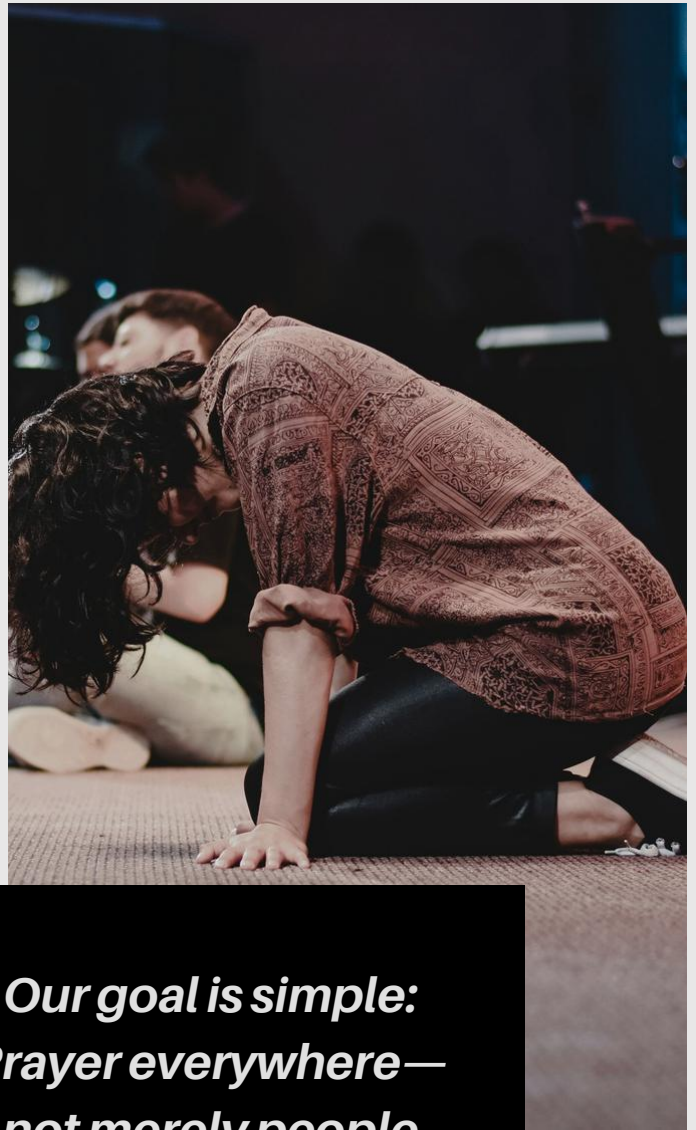
Culture of Prayer

The strongest conviction among the Elders is our need for a renewed dependence on the Holy Spirit.

We sense God calling us to move from confidence in our own effort to confidence in His presence and power. Prayer must become more than a ministry expression or church activity; it must become the very culture of our network.

We envision prayer woven into every gathering, leadership meeting, House Church, ministry decision, and expression of mission.

We want to become a people who listen before acting, seek God before strategizing, and depend upon the Holy Spirit for everything we cannot produce ourselves.



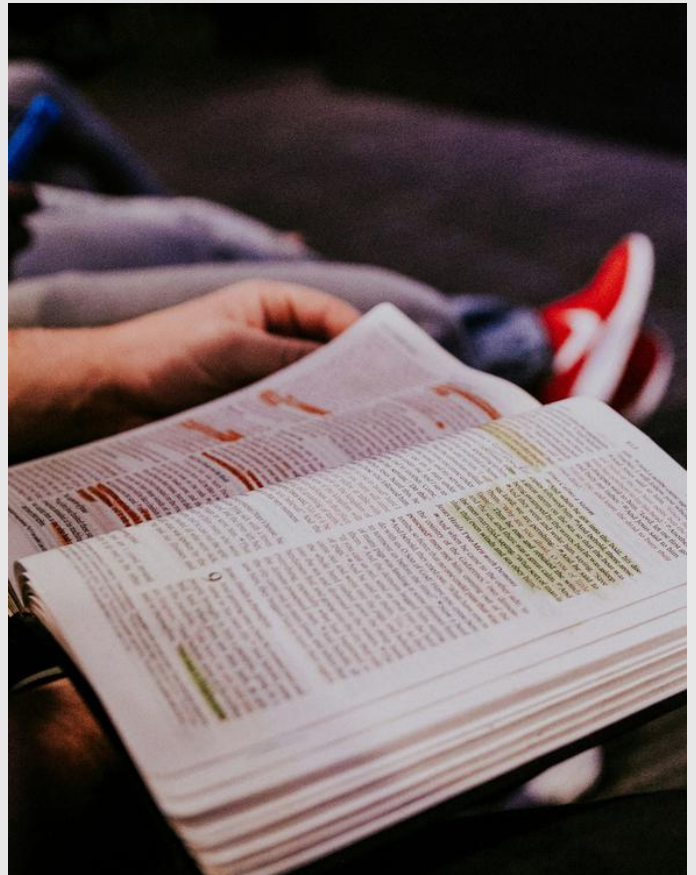
***Our goal is simple:
Prayer everywhere—
not merely people
who pray, but a
people OF prayer.***

Culture of Discipleship

We believe discipleship must become more intentional, relational, and visible throughout the network.

We want to move from assuming that formation happens through participation to creating clear pathways that help people become mature apprentices of Jesus. This means learning not only what Jesus taught, but how to live as He lived—practicing His way together in everyday life.

We envision every person having a next step, every House Church becoming an environment of transformation, and more mature disciples equipped to help others follow Jesus.



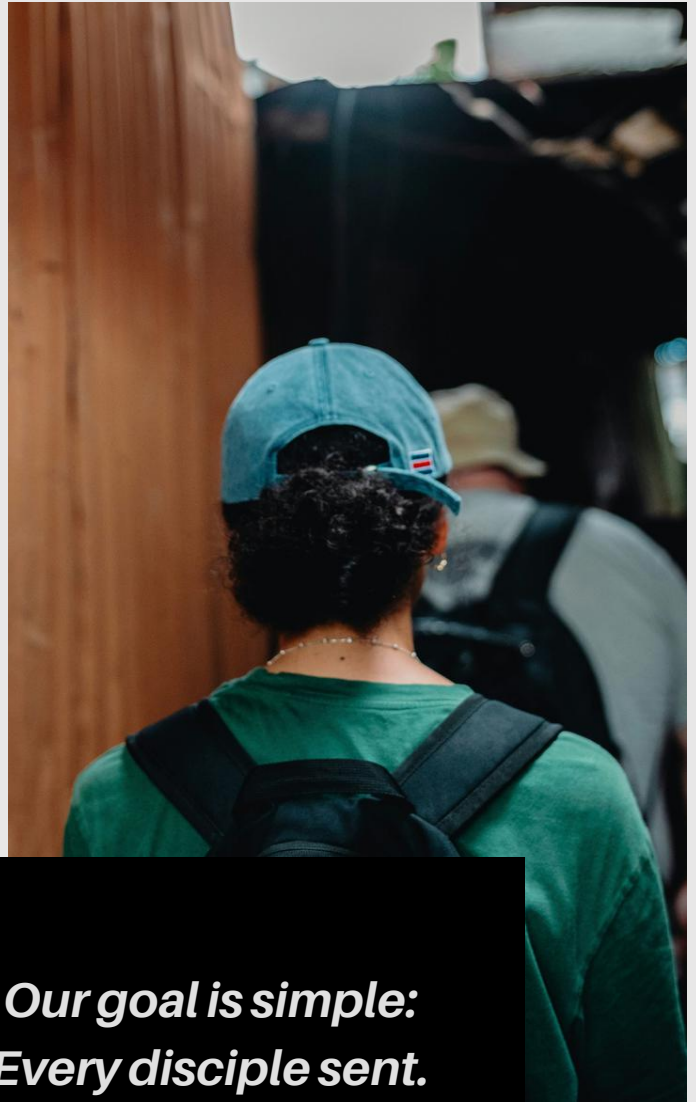
***Our goal is simple:
Everyone learning the
way of Jesus—and
helping someone else
do the same.***

Culture of Mission and Witness

We sense God calling us to move beyond community as the primary destination and recover our identity as a vigorous community with missional habits.

House Churches are not only places where we find belonging; they are spiritual families sent together for the good of their neighborhoods, relationships, workplaces, and city. Mission is not reserved for a gifted few or an occasional event. It is part of the ordinary life of every disciple.

We envision every House Church becoming an outpost of God's Kingdom, every disciple seeing themselves as sent, and spiritually curious people encountering Jesus through our words, lives, hospitality, and service.



***Our goal is simple:
Every disciple sent.
Every House Church
on mission.***

Culture of Radical Generosity

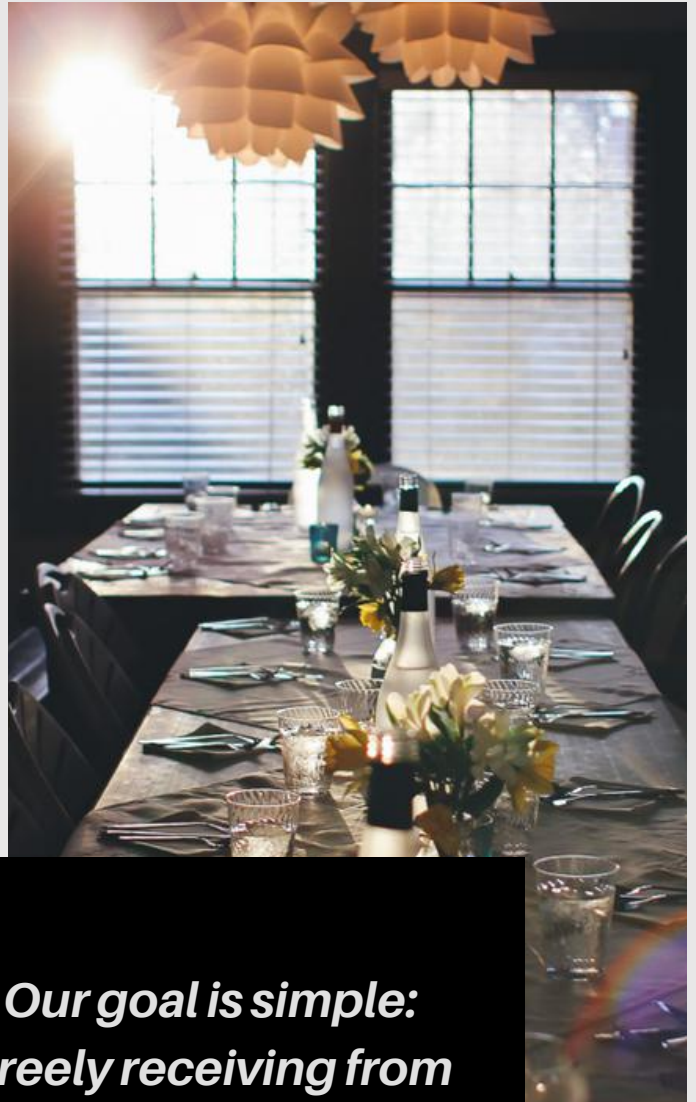
We believe Kingdom mission requires Kingdom stewardship.

We sense God calling us to move from scarcity and self-protection toward trust, simplicity, and open-handed generosity.

Financial sustainability is not merely a budget issue; it is a discipleship issue that reveals where we place our security and what we believe is our life purpose.

We envision a network in which people joyfully share their time, abilities, relationships, homes, and financial resources.

Together, we want to invest generously in mission, develop future leaders, care for one another, and build what God entrusts to us.



***Our goal is simple:
Freely receiving from
God and freely giving
for the good of others.***

Culture of Fruitfulness and Sustainability

We believe healthy things are meant to grow and fruitful things are meant to multiply.

After several years of necessary pruning and stabilization, we sense God inviting us to move beyond self-preservation and into renewed faith for Kingdom fruitfulness. We are not pursuing size, recognition, or organizational growth for its own sake. We are asking God to produce the kind of growth only He can give for the purpose of advancing His kingdom.

We envision fruit IN US through transformed character, resilience and obedience; fruit AMONG US through love, unity, and healthy spiritual families; and fruit THROUGH US as new disciples, leaders, ministries, and House Churches multiply across Kansas City and beyond.

Our desire is to faithfully steward everything God has entrusted to us so that more people can become fully alive in Christ.



***Our goal is simple:
Deep roots. Abundant
fruit. Multiplying life -
for many years to
come.***

What would success look like?

CULTURE OF PRAYER ---> *Prayer everywhere*

CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP ---> *Everyone a disciple and a disciple maker*

CULTURE OF MISSION AND WITNESS ---> *10 new House Churches*

CULTURE OF RADICAL GENEROSITY ---> *GN Beyond fully funded*

CULTURE OF FRUITFULNESS AND SUSTAINABILITY ---> *112 Covenant Partners*

What we hope to see in five years:

- Prayer shaping the ordinary life and decisions of the network
- Clear discipleship pathways accessible to every person in every House Church
- Every House Church participating in meaningful mission
- New disciples, leaders, and House Churches multiplying
- Generosity making new ministry possible
- Sustainable care for current leaders
- A discerned Rule of Life shaping every Household
- A healthier, broader, more sustainable network

What steps will we take toward our 5 year vision in 2027?

Five Year Vision

Culture of Prayer

Culture of Discipleship

*Culture of Mission
and Witness*

*Culture of Radical
Generosity*

*Culture of Fruitfulness
and Sustainability*

2027 Big Rocks

Presence Patterns

Discipleship Ecosystem

Church Planter Cohort

Grant Funding

New Growth



“Attempt something so big
that unless God intervenes,
it is bound to fail.”

Jamie Buckingham



CULTURE OF PRAYER: *Building Presence Patterns*



In 2027 we will be:

- Hosting **2 Citywide Prayer Rooms** with Pray KC in the Spring and Fall.
- Hosting a **Gather 2027** 24 hr watch party at the Training Center - joining millions around the globe for a day of fasting, worship, and prayer.
- Joining Pray KC's quarterly **Nights with God** to contend for renewal in Kansas City with the greater Church in KC.
- Increasing **prayer ministry at All Togethers**
- Equipping House Church leaders for **prayer ministry in House Churches**
- **Even more to come...**

CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP: *Establishing Our Discipleship Ecosystem*



In 2027 we will be:

- Releasing **JESUS SCHOOL*** an 8 week, decentralized discipleship course to help disciples understand the Lordship of Jesus, discover their identity in Christ, and truly understand what it means to follow him.
- Later in the year **KINGDOM SCHOOL*** will follow as an 8 week, decentralized course to help disciples understand the reality of the Kingdom of God, discover God's view of the world and His desire for it, with practices to embody the reality of the Kingdom in everyday life.
- **LEADER SCHOOL** is being revamped as a continuation of Jesus, and Kingdom School, and will be available to anyone who wants to multiply the life of the Kingdom in others.

These schools will be the assimilation of 20 years of disciple making among the next generation in North America and will be available to churches beyond our Network.

- In addition - we are **deepening Men's and Women's Groups**, and are happy to announce **Women's group will begin early January!**

*JESUS SCHOOL and KINGDOM SCHOOL names are subject to change.

CULTURE OF MISSION: *Opening our First-ever House Church Planter Cohort*



In 2027 we will be:

- We are launching our **first-ever House Church Planter Cohort** to welcome new leaders into our Network.
 - With **nearly 20 years of experience** raising up leaders to plant, develop, and lead House Churches, we are ready to sow that experience into the leaders we believe God is raising up in Kansas City. This is truly an *"If you build it, they will come"* endeavor for us. The cohort **will also enable us to equip emerging leaders already among us** who sense God's call to lead a House Church.
- We are also happy to announce our **first-ever Church-wide Mission experience**. We are headed to **JAMAICA** this summer!

CULTURE OF RADICAL GENEROSITY: *Beyond Fully Funded*



In 2027 we will be:

Continuing to deepen our four-part plan to grow beyond being fully-funded.

- Year End Giving
- Staff Fundraising
- Covenant Partner Generosity Increase
- Grant Funding
 - We are **looking for volunteers** to work as a Funding Team. Reach out to ***hello@gatheringnetwork.org*** to inquire.

We will continue to encourage **small, incremental increases in Covenant Partner giving** each year, because these regular tithes and offerings are our most sustainable source of revenue. Currently, **nearly 80% of our Covenant Partner households give at some level** —an incredible expression of faith and generosity.

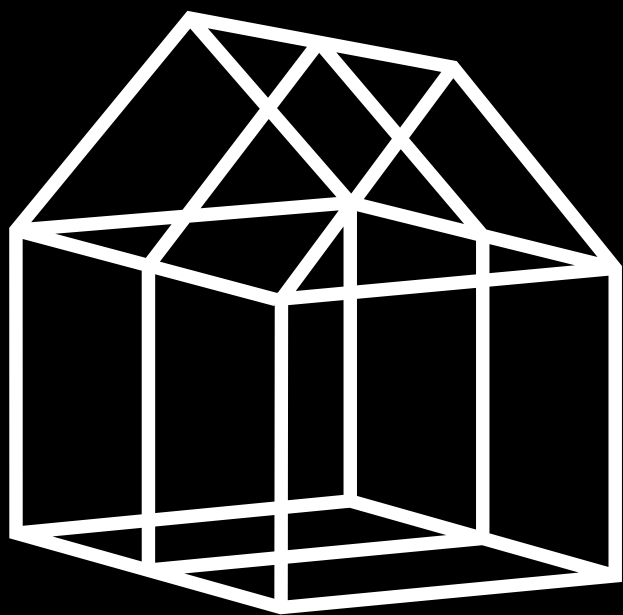
One of our major Big Rocks for 2027 is **pursuing GRANT FUNDING** to help launch and expand mission initiatives. This funding will supplement Covenant Partner giving and resource opportunities with the potential for lasting impact.

CULTURE OF FRUITFULNESS: *We are Believing for Growth*



In 2027 we will be:

- We will continue investing in kids and teens, with an opportunity in 2027 to develop **ministry for middle schoolers** at the GN.
- To help newcomers find their place in our life together, we will launch the **New to the Network House Church** - a *three-week introductory experience* held Sunday mornings at the Training Center. Offered each spring and fall, to help those who have been with us for 18 months or less integrate into the life of our Network.
- We are writing and releasing **resources to help every Household discern a Rule of Life** (*a pattern of daily living*) to help each household live a Jesus Shaped Life.
- We will share stories through **social media and podcasts**, giving the outside world a window into our Network. More to come!
- We will also continue developing long-term **care and support for our current House Church leaders**.

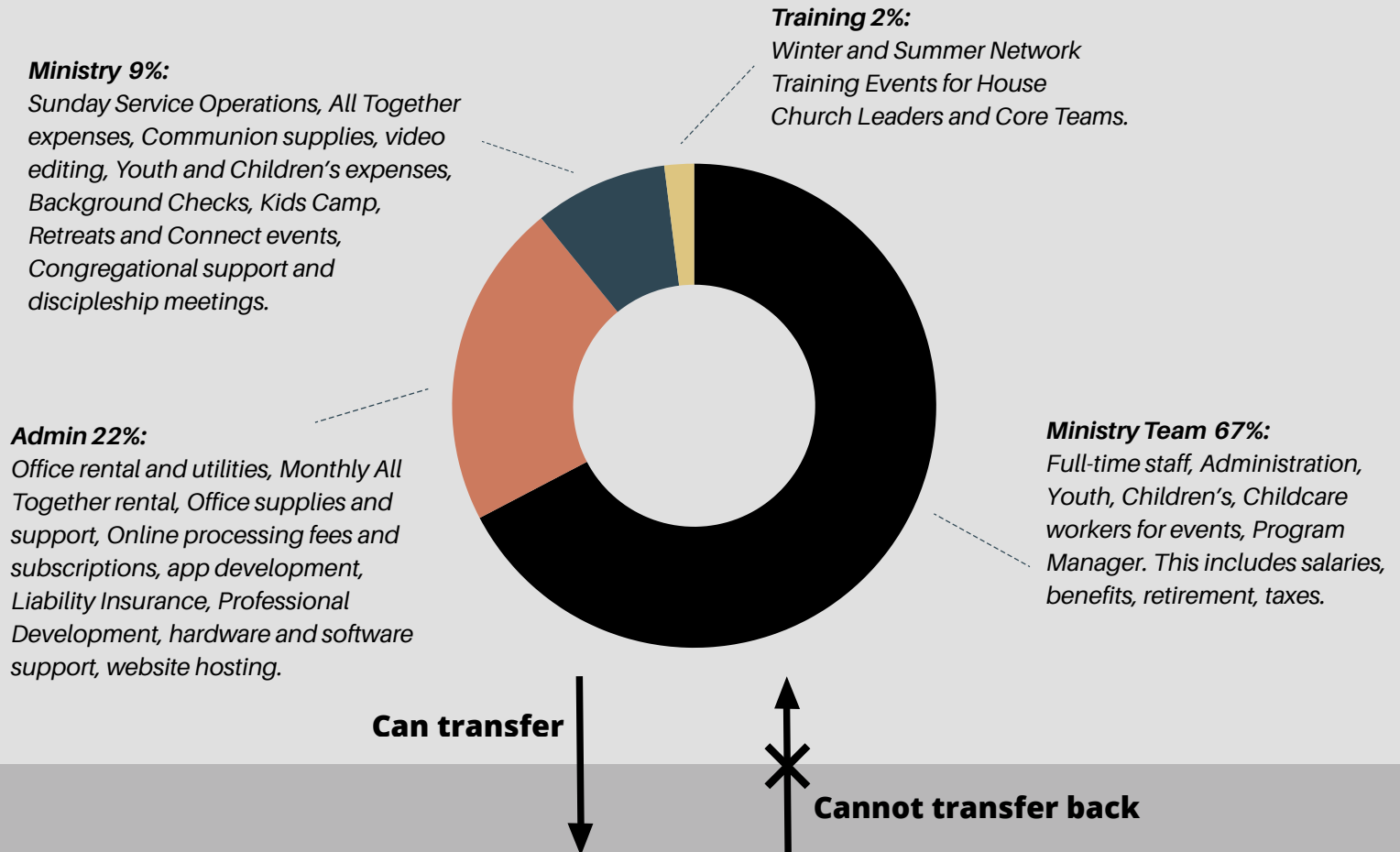


**Every Kingdom
initiative in history has
depended on
resources to fulfill it's
calling .**

**This was true of Jesus'
ministry, and it is true
of ours.**

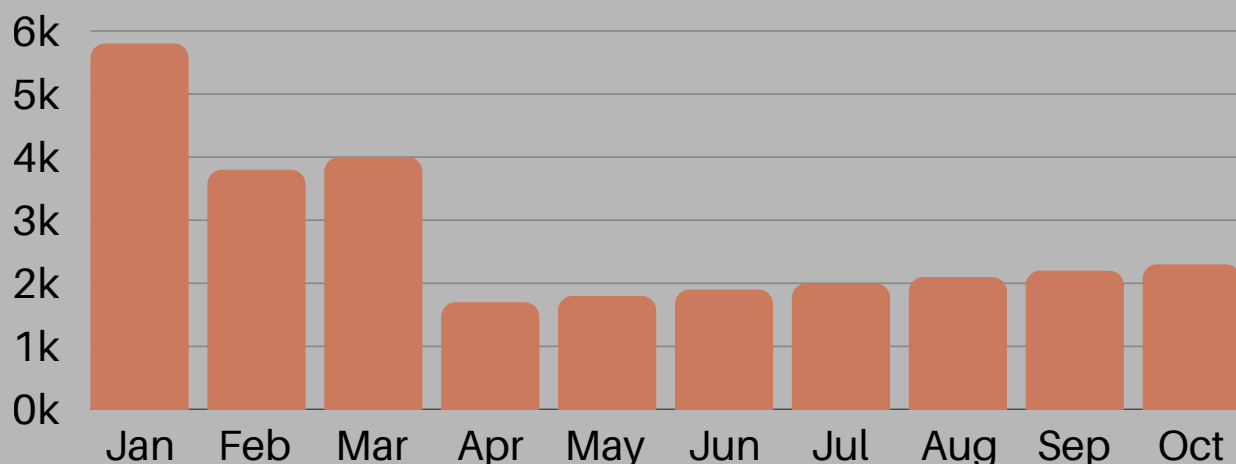
HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?

Ministry Fund: 430k 2026 Budget



Love Fund: Benevolence Ministry Fund

*2026 has included paying mortgages, rent and utilities to support families in crisis. **You can give to the Love Fund at any time** online or in our app.



WE ARE DIVERSIFYING OUR REVENUE STREAMS. Why?

Small movements and church networks like ours need to become more creative and resourceful in today's economy to sustain the work God has entrusted to us and fund new opportunities for mission.

As true as that is, **it is still primarily our responsibility** as those who call this our Church Network to own its vision and keep growing in generosity as part of our ongoing discipleship—learning to trust God with our resources and joyfully invest in our shared life and mission.

It is with **GREAT JOY** that we celebrate that **over 80% of our current Covenant Partners give at some level!** That is such a sign of health and spiritual maturity.

Also - since announcing our goal earlier this year to increase Covenant Partner giving by \$50,000, **we have seen nearly \$32,000 in increases already this year.**

Gathering Network, we are really doing it! Praise GOD!

OUR 2026 FOUR-PART PLAN

Earlier this year we announced a four-part plan to diversify our revenue streams to close a 185k funding gap. This is that plan:

1.

COVENANT PARTNER TITHING: 50k

The most sustainable revenue stream we have is the tithe base our Covenant Partners give. If you call the GN home you can begin giving by scanning the QR Code or in the GN app.



2.

STAFF FUND RAISING: 50k

Both of our full-time leaders, Jon Shirley and Andrew McClanahan have begun fundraising to supplement 25k each a year. To join their teams scan their QR code.

Jon Shirley



Andrew McClanahan



3.

YEAR END / PATRON GIVING: 40k

We have a year end giving goal of 40k to end 2026.

*One very encouraging trend **we have seen is the generosity of parents of GN Covenant Partner families who give as PATRONS** of this work. That is AMAZING! You are leaving a profound mark with your generosity!*

Patron Giving



4.

GRANT FUNDING:

In 2027 we are pursuing Grant Funding to help launch and expand mission initiatives. Please pray as we prepare for this new endeavor.

We are still raising an additional 45k in 2026 which we believe will come from *partner churches, corporations, and large donors.*

THANK YOU, PARTNERS!

Partner Giving



Stay in the Know:

Getting timely information to everyone in a decentralized movement can be challenging, especially when we all have our preferred methods of communication.

We use three primary tools to help you stay in the know.

Our App: Apple and Android users can download our app by searching "Gathering Network" wherever you download apps or by using the QR code below. The App is the most efficient resource for Gathering Network insiders and is constantly updated.

Our Text Line: To receive up-to-the-minute information regarding All Togethers or other happenings, opt-in to receive our texts by texting the word "gathering" to 833-470-3873. You might do that now. Be sure to fill out the automated form that replies to you because it helps to have your name in our database in conjunction with your phone number. We make it a priority not to spam you with needless messages.

The text line is how we send information about the monthly All Together, news about House Churches, or where we let you know when a service is canceled due to inclement weather, etc.

Our Newsletter: If you are an email person, you will love our newsletter. It comes out twice a month and is filled with helpful information about upcoming events, reminders, and even resources our leaders find helpful. You can sign up for our newsletter in the app.

Oh, and of course, **our Website** at gatheringnetwork.org. We've designed it to answer newcomer's (pre-in-person visitors) questions, so it's probably not going to be super helpful to you from here on out. You will occasionally go there to log in to your account, but you can do most of what you need to do in the app.



Get the app here





Gathering Network

www.gatheringnetwork.org