

FIRST COAST
CHURCHES

DON'T
PASTOR
ALONE.

BACKSTAGE

PASS



A Window Into Your Network

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of our First Coast Churches (FCC) Backstage Pass!

At FCC, our mission is both simple and transformative: We help church leaders form partnerships that connect the mission force to the mission field every day. Through this Backstage Pass, we want to give you a glimpse into the heart and soul of your church network. Ministry is not meant to be done alone, and we're here to provide a network of churches and pastors that strengthens, supports, and encourages you along the way.

Recently, I was reading Acts 9 and was reminded that even the Apostle Paul didn't pastor alone—he had Barnabas. In fact, he needed Barnabas!

"When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing he was a disciple. Barnabas, however, took him, brought him to the apostles, and explained how Paul had encountered the Lord on the road, and how he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus" (Acts 9:26-27).

For our "Don't Pastor Alone" vision to grow into a movement, we'll all need to be a Barnabas for others at times. And at other times, we'll need someone to be a Barnabas for us. Don't Pastor Alone is not a program. It is an opportunity to contribute to a movement where you are an important contributor!

I also want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to every pastor and church in our network. Your dedication, time, and generosity are what make FCC what it is. Through your financial support, prayers, and sharing of your expertise, you help ensure that no one carries the burden of ministry alone. Because of you, FCC remains a vibrant, thriving community where pastors are encouraged, supported, and reminded that we truly are better together. Thank you for being a vital part of this important work.



Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bob Bung.



DON'T PASTOR ALONE.

firstcoastchurches.com

ABOUT US

ONE MISSION

HELPING CHURCH LEADERS CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT CONNECT THE MISSION FORCE TO THE MISSION FIELD EVERY DAY.

TWO WAYS TO BENEFIT MINISTRY LEADERS AND CHURCHES

Relationships and **Resources**

THREE CORE COMMITMENTS

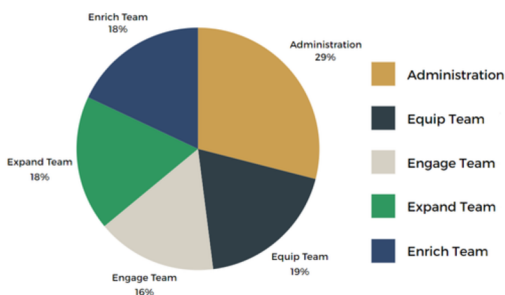
- o Pursue Gospel-Focused Mission Together
- o Build Intentional Kingdom Relationships
- o Appreciate Cultural and Regional Diversity

FOUR MISSION PATHWAYS

- o Church Strengthening Pathway
- o Church Starting Pathway
- o Community Engagement Pathway
- o Pastoral Wellness Pathway



DID YOU KNOW



WE ARE FUNDED THROUGH MEMBER CHURCHES NOT THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Our ministry at First Coast Churches (FCC) is entirely funded through the generosity of the 200 plus churches within our network. We do not receive Cooperative Program funding, which means the collaborative work we do is made possible by the financial support of congregations of all sizes. Each church, regardless of size, shares their resources to help advance the gospel in our communities. This collective generosity enables us to provide the relationships, training, and resources necessary to strengthen pastors and equip churches for effective ministry. Together, we are ensuring that no one carries the burden of ministry alone.

THE WORLD IS COMING TO THE FIRST COAST

When you consider the full geography served by First Coast Churches, our ministry field spans an impressive 4,500 square miles—larger than the combined states of Delaware and Rhode Island. This expansive footprint covers a diverse range of communities, from bustling urban centers and suburban neighborhoods to serene beach towns and rural areas. Our region is not only geographically diverse but also richly multicultural, with 114 different nationalities represented within our communities. This diversity brings both unique opportunities and challenges, and it fuels our commitment to equipping churches to reach people from all walks of life with the gospel.



MINISTRY
Wives

FIRST
COAST
CHURCHES

WE SERVE MINISTRY WIVES ALL YEAR LONG

First Coast Churches has developed a strong reputation for ministering to the wives of pastors and ministry leaders across our network. We deeply value the unique and often challenging role these women play in supporting their husbands and serving their churches. At FCC, we are committed to creating a community where these ministry partners feel understood, appreciated, and connected. Through our support, resources, and encouragement, we aim to help them not only endure the demands of ministry but thrive alongside their families. Their contribution is vital, and we are honored to walk alongside them on this journey.

THE MINISTRY GARAGE IS FOR YOU

The Ministry Garage is the perfect place to step away from the daily demands of ministry and refocus on where God is leading you next. Equipped with whiteboards, flip charts, a café, internet, and digital projection tools, it's an environment built for prayer, collaboration, creativity, and strategic planning. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal or clarifying your next steps, the Ministry Garage offers the ideal setting to listen to God together and map out your future in ministry and FCC will provide a free lunch for you and your team!



WE OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO WORSHIP LEADERS

First Coast Churches has been the steward of the Walter L. Brown Music Scholarship for over 20 years. This scholarship was created to assist college students who are studying music/worship arts and are members of a First Coast Churches' Church. Since 2011, 62 scholarships and over \$100,000 dollars have been awarded. If you or a students is considering going to school for music or worship arts, we would love to be able to help you on your educational journey.

**DON'T PASTOR ALONE.
HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?**

DID YOU KNOW



YOUR FCC MINISTRY TEAM IS GROWING

We've significantly expanded the capacity of our ministry team. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our four E-Teams and the additional training they received this year, we are now better equipped than ever to both plant new churches and strengthen existing ones. In addition, we've welcomed a new full-time team member who will focus on facilitating our community engagement, ensuring that we continue to make a lasting impact on the people and neighborhoods we serve.

WE OFFER CHURCH MICROLOANS

We provide microloans to FCC Member Churches, offering up to \$25,000 at a competitive 5% simple interest rate over a 5-year term. This program is specifically designed to serve as a financial bridge, addressing urgent needs that traditional financial institutions may not be able to meet. By offering this accessible option, we aim to empower churches to continue their vital work without disruption during times of financial strain.



WE MAKE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EASIER

At First Coast Churches, we are deeply committed to partnering with local congregations to elevate community engagement. Over the past three years, we've facilitated the distribution of gifts to more than 235 school principals across Duval, Clay, Northern St. Johns, Baker, and Nassau counties, all thanks to the dedication of our network churches. Beyond this, we offer access to comprehensive demographic studies, equipping you with valuable insights to better understand and serve your community. With these resources, we empower you to make a greater impact as you share the love of Jesus Christ.

WE CREATE HELPFUL MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

We simplify and secure the process of connecting you with reliable ministry partners. With nearly 20 trusted partners, we offer a wide range of resources, including financial support, relationship-building, missions, adoption services, Christian education, women's discipleship, pastoral care, child abuse prevention, background checks, and much more. These partners have proven effective in helping you deepen and broaden your ministry's impact.



WE OFFER LEADERSHIP BOOK SUMMARIES

Leadership isn't easy but First Coast Churches' pastors can access a wealth of wisdom and insights with free leadership book summaries. These book summaries help busy pastors and their teams quickly digest the latest in leadership with clear and concise 12-15 page book summaries from Christian and secular authors. This allows them to learn leadership insights in minutes instead of hours and increase their confidence as a leader.

LEARN MORE AT

firstcoastchurches.com

HOW WE SERVE CHURCHES

CLARIFY

By Listening To Unlock Perspective

We begin by listening carefully to understand each church's unique context. Our goal is to gain insight in three key areas: the local ministry setting, the unique leadership focus, and the congregation's ministry SHAPE. This step creates Kingdom Perspective that allows us to clarify each church's context.



COLLABORATE

To Create Helpful Next Steps

After listening, we work side-by-side with church leaders to identify clear, actionable next steps for their ministry. By collaborating, we create spiritual and strategic insights and develop a shared vision that will guide the church forward on their disciple-making mission.



START WITH A CUP OF COFFEE!

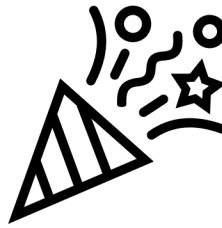
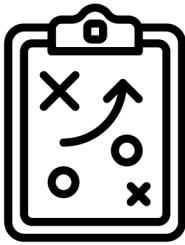
Congregational disciple making starts with a conversation, not a strategy. A cup of coffee, a shared story, and a moment of prayer—these are the simple steps toward helping churches take a helpful next step.



COACH

Towards Team Goals

We'll coach the church's leadership team to put their plans into action and move toward a future focused on disciple-making that fits who they are and where they are doing ministry. Lasting ministry effectiveness requires a commitment to prayer and personal growth.



CELEBRATE

Pathway Progress

Finally, celebration is a vital part of our process. Time is taken to recognize and rejoice in the progress God is giving us. We highlight both the milestones reached and the perseverance shown as the team takes each step forward. Celebration not only affirms our part in the process but God's faithful presence through out.

DON'T PASTOR ALONE.



RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

In ministry, relationships and resources are essential to help us fulfill our God-given calling. We see this in 1 Corinthians 3:6, while we play our part, it is ultimately God who brings the increase. Though we fully depend on Him for results, the relationships and resources available for personal development, team growth, organizational effectiveness, and mission advancement equip us to serve effectively.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

In ministry, personal growth is a high priority. Like the flight attendant's instruction to put on your oxygen mask first, pastors and ministry leaders must prioritize their development to stay equipped for the challenges of ministry.

QUESTIONS WE HELP ANSWER

- What are my core strengths and gifts?
- What are my blind spots or weaknesses?
- Am I task oriented or relationally oriented?
- Who is mentoring or challenging me to grow?
- How am I balancing my personal well-being with my leadership responsibilities?

INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Building trust is essential to becoming a leader who is easier to follow. By improving interpersonal communication and connection, ministry relationships grow stronger.

QUESTIONS WE HELP ANSWER

- How well do I listen to and understand the needs and concerns of those I lead?
- How do I create an environment of trust, openness, and collaboration in my team?
- How do I build and maintain meaningful, supportive relationships with those I serve?
- How do I handle conflict or difficult conversations while preserving relationships?
- In what ways do I empower and encourage others to grow and thrive in their roles?

DON'T PASTOR ALONE.

TEAM DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Teamwork requires both prayer and effort! Focusing on team development fosters connection, collaboration, and communication for overall ministry effectiveness.



QUESTIONS WE HELP ANSWER

- How well do I know the strengths, weaknesses, and passions of each team member?
- How do I intentionally develop and equip my team for growth in their roles and ministry?
- How do I foster collaboration and unity within the team while encouraging individual creativity?
- What steps am I taking to ensure team members feel valued, supported, and empowered?
- How do I handle challenges or setbacks in a way that strengthens the team's resilience and cohesion?

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

QUESTIONS WE HELP ANSWER

- How is our church fulfilling its mission to make disciples and serve the community?
- What is the spiritual health of our congregation, and how are we nurturing growth in faith and maturity?
- How aligned are our ministries, programs, and resources with our church's vision and values?
- How do we identify, develop, and empower emerging leaders within the church?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities our church is facing, and how are we strategically addressing them?

Keeping everyone aligned on the mission rowing in the same direction can be challenging. Congregational development is vital for establishing clear structures and processes that align people and resources with the church's mission. Congregational leadership requires a unique blend of spiritual and organizational stewardship. Effective congregational leadership must be deep and wide in their thinking about accomplishing the Great Commission.



FIRST COAST GROUPS



RELATIONSHIPS FOR MINISTRY

At First Coast Churches, we believe ministry is meant to be done together, not in isolation. That's why we created FCC Groups—to help ministry leaders like you form intentional Kingdom relationships that make life and ministry better. These groups are designed to bring leaders together to support each other, grow spiritually, and share the ups and downs of ministry. You choose when, where, and how often you meet and how you will stay connected between meetings whether that's in person or through platforms like Facebook, Slack, or Teams, the goal is simple: stay connected and move forward together.

What FCC Groups Are All About

Get Connected, Stay Supported

Ministry can be tough, and FCC Groups give you a circle of peers who get it. Meeting up regularly helps you build friendships and find the support you need, both personally and professionally.

Real Talk, Real Relationships

These groups are about more than small talk. We're talking about genuine friendships where you can share what's really going on—your challenges, your wins, and everything in between. It's a safe space where you can be real.

Help Each Other Grow

Whether you need advice or you're ready to share some wisdom of your own, FCC Groups are a place to give and receive coaching. We're all about growing as servant leaders, helping each other succeed in ministry.

Prayer and Care

We all need someone praying for us and checking in. FCC Groups are built on mutual care—because we're stronger when we walk together. When life gets hard, you'll have a group that's got your back.

Celebrate the Journey

Life's too short not to celebrate! Whether it's hitting a big ministry milestone or just getting through a crazy week, FCC Groups are there to cheer you on. We grow stronger when we celebrate together.

GROUP TYPES

In our network, we believe there's no one-size-fits-all approach to ministry. That's why we've created a variety of groups tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities in your specific context. Whether you're in a particular season of ministry, navigating the distinct dynamics of your church and community, or need input from people that have a ministry role like yours, these groups are designed to connect you with relationships and resources that offer real-time value. More than just a place to belong, these groups empower you to contribute meaningfully and receive the support and direction you need. We invite you to lean in, join a group, and experience the kind of partnership that will help you thrive in ministry.

A circular image with an orange tint showing two men sitting at a table, looking at a laptop screen.

Cohorts

A circular image with an orange tint showing a group of people standing in a room, possibly during a presentation or meeting.

Ministry
Position

A circular image with an orange tint showing two women sitting at a table, engaged in conversation.

Ministry
Wives

A circular image with an orange tint showing a stack of papers or books.

Topical

A circular image with an orange tint showing two people looking at a document together.

Affinity

A circular image with an orange tint showing a map of Jacksonville, FL, divided into numbered neighborhoods.

Geographical

DON'T PASTOR ALONE.

A photograph of a church interior with people sitting at tables, engaged in various activities.

READY TO JOIN A GROUP?

Join an FCC Group today, and experience the power of doing ministry in community. You'll grow, learn, and have a lot more fun knowing you're not in this alone.





CONTACT US



904.727.6800



info@firstcoastchurches.com



3740 St. Johns Bluff Rd. Suite #4
Jacksonville, Florida 32224

FIRST COAST CHURCHES

**DON'T
PASTOR
ALONE.**