

BECOME THE CHURCH WHERE YOU LIVE

Have you moved to an area where the church of Christ does not exist? Why not become the church in your community?

But, what about a church meeting place? The meeting place is already built and paid for—your home or some free space in your city or town. The meeting place is up to you. You and those with you will become an autonomous congregation of the Lord's church. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together there I am in their midst." Members of the church might ask some of the older people at your congregation how your local congregation started. Don't be surprised that many will discover or recall that lots of congregations began in someone's home or some free space in your town.

Is it scriptural for a church to meet in someone's house? That is exactly where the church met for the first two and one-half centuries of its existence and the gospel covered the earth. Although evangelists, elders (pastors), and teachers prepared Christians of the 1st century for works of service ([Ephesians 4:11-16](#)), the gospel spread through relationships many times--from neighbor to neighbor and friend to friend.

But, what about a preacher and mature Bible teacher to assist us? The Antioch Initiative ([aicoc.org](#)) is a church planting vision overseen by the elders of Elmore church of Christ in Elmore, AL with her growing number of brotherhood partners. As one option, we invite you to interview one of our preachers to become the one who delivers sermons and lessons at your new congregation. We are prepared to preach for your new congregation through live online lessons or archive lessons at no charge.

Why are you doing this? Our reward is the knowledge that we are participating in the spreading of the gospel and the igniting the beginning of new congregations over the U.S.A.

What control would Elmore church in Elmore, AL, its elders, or its preachers have over your new congregation? None whatsoever, except the power of prayer.

What is the ultimate goal of the Antioch Initiative? Our goal is to see multiple congregations of the churches of Christ established over the U.S. that will become self-propagating, self-supporting, and self-led. In short, it is not our goal to do your work, but to help prepare you for works of service. You must spread the gospel in your own area.

Are there stipulations in your willingness to help us? We are not interested in pulling members away from an existing congregation to form a new congregation unless the existing leadership of an existing congregation so desires and plans for that to happen.

How will you know that Elmore preachers who deliver lessons are sound in the word of God? We can give you our references. We can forward you a resume. We will submit to your interview by phone and/or in writing. We welcome you to listen and weigh what we teach against the infallible truth of God's written word. And, you can fire us anytime you want.

What is this going to cost us? Nothing and everything! It will cost you nothing financially, because your meeting place can be free as described above and our preachers will work for nothing. But, on the other hand, it will cost you everything you have as Jesus taught in the parable of the treasure in the field and the pearl of

great price. If you are unwilling to commit all to Jesus for the lost around you, please do not contact us.

So, let us ask, are you ready to become the church where you live? For more information, contact Gene Clemons (genec66@gmail.com) or Don Myers (dmyers@faulkner.edu)

How can those reading this message help immediately? You can forward this to every Christian you know in the U.S. And, you can share with us any information concerning Christians living in places in the U.S. where the church of Christ does not exist.

Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the apples in a seed.