
CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROCESS

What do we look for in making a church partner?

The two main things are **relationship and communication**. We ask ourselves these questions in a church partnership process:

- How does Life Launch already fit into the context of what the church is doing?
- Does Life Launch fit into their culture?

It is helpful to have a point person (usually not a staff member) who is leading the charge for Life Launch in the church. You will meet with the Life Launch team to talk about progress, point volunteers in your church who are interested to Life Launch trainings. Be the church spokesperson.

- **Reach out** to churches who are already actively caring for the vulnerable and involved in foster care in any way.
- **Find any connections you may have with that church** to set up an introduction for you. We have found this to be more effective than cold calling.
- When you set up a meeting with the church, **offer to meet anywhere that is best for them**. Offer to pay for their coffee or bring them a drink from a coffee shop if you are meeting at their church.
- The first couple of meetings, share the vision of Life Launch. **Ask them to see if they have any avenues in their church that they feel Life Launch aligns with**. If they are already caring for young adults in foster care or are active with CarePortal, this can often be an easy next step.
- After an initial meeting, offer your training times for them to attend. If the church has a group of 10+ people, you can offer to do a training just for their group. From here, ask them where they see this fitting into their church. Often times, this is a great training for youth, missions, and care pastors.
- If this is something they see fitting into their church at this time, there are a few ways to go about next steps.
 - **Dream up some ways to connect with small groups** that are passionate about mentoring.
 - **Have announcements** or active ways for the church members to get involved.
 - **Request to be highlighted as a way to volunteer through their church**.
 - **Sign a contract** that reviews what Life Launch is offering to them and vice versa.
- Remember that you are coming alongside this church, so **find out what works best for their context**.
- Ask that they have a point person that can be meeting regularly for **coaching and guidance** as they are the Life Launch advocate for their church.
- Have members attend monthly training sessions and get matched.