

# CHURCH SOLUTION GUIDE

## HOPE AND A FUTURE

FORGING STRONG AND STABLE FAMILIES IN OHIO | 2025



CHURCH  
AMBASSADOR  
NETWORK

*A Ministry of Center for Christian Virtue*



COMMUNIO



RESTORING GOD'S  
DESIGN FOR  
MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILIES



When the Bible describes the story of God's covenant faithfulness, marriage is often used as the metaphor for His redemptive work.

This idea is woven throughout Scripture—from the marriage of Adam and Eve in the opening verses of Genesis to the wedding feast of Christ and His Church in the closing chapters of Revelation. Marriage is the Bible's constant analogy to help us understand the love, sacrifice, commitment, and grace Jesus offers us.

Our own marriages unite us to our spouse and challenge us to exhibit those same characteristics daily. This sacred, lifelong union between a man and a woman offers an environment for us to give and receive repentance, to serve another's needs over our own, to love unconditionally and sacrificially, and to delight in relationship and community as families grow and welcome new generations.

Marriage and family are among the greatest gifts God has given humanity—along with Himself, the Holy Spirit, and His Church—to help us thrive in the world He created.

However, when we systematically reject His gifts, hurt and harm inevitably follow.

THIS MYSTERY IS PROFOUND, AND I AM  
SAYING THAT IT REFERS TO CHRIST AND THE  
CHURCH. HOWEVER, LET EACH ONE OF YOU  
LOVE HIS WIFE AS HIMSELF, AND LET THE WIFE  
SEE THAT SHE RESPECTS HER HUSBAND.

EPHESIANS 5:32-33 (ESV)

A family consisting of a man, a woman, and a young girl are walking away from the camera towards a bright sunset in a field. The man is on the right, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark jeans. The woman is on the left, wearing a denim jacket and a light-colored skirt. The young girl is in the center, holding hands with both parents. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect and silhouettes of the family. The field is filled with tall grass. The entire scene is framed within a rounded rectangle with a thin orange border.

HOPE  
AND A FUTURE

The 2025 *Hope and a Future* report provides a comprehensive look at the current state of the family in Ohio and nationwide and reveals the true crisis facing our state and country.

The data is overwhelmingly clear: communities where families are falling apart are the most plagued with troubles:

- Kids underperforming in school
- Violence and drugs flooding the streets
- Abortion on the rise while fertility rates plummet

Despite how obvious the problems are, effective solutions remain hard to find—and not for lack of trying. But new proposed fixes follow the same failing formula: throw more money at it.

Because we haven't see the change we would expect, it's time to change the discussion.

For too long, the conversation has focused on treating mere symptoms—the fruit of the problem—rather than addressing the root cause: **the breakdown of the family.**

*To see the change our state and nation desperately need, we have to focus on rebuilding God's essential institution of marriage.*

TO LEARN MORE OR GET A COPY OF THE  
HOPE AND A FUTURE REPORT, PLEASE VISIT  
**CCV.ORG/HOPE**

## FAMILY STRUCTURE INDEX

The keystone to the Hope and A Future report is the Family Structure Index. Developed by Professor Brad Wilcox and Professor Nick Zill, the new Family Structure Index is designed to reveal the extent to which states have strong, stable, and sustainable families. Ohio is ranked below the national average at 29th.

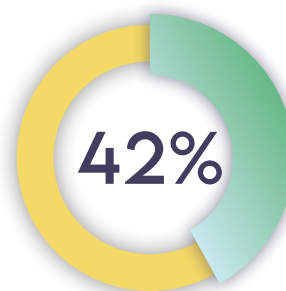


## OHIO FAMILY STRUCTURE INDEX

55.4	55.7%	1.70	47.6%
INDEX SCORE	PRIME-AGED ADULTS MARRIED	FERTILITY RATE	% OF TEENS WITH MARRIED PARENTS

## 42% OF OHIO CHILDREN WERE BORN TO UNMARRIED PARENTS

Ohio has a higher share of children born out of wedlock than the national average, fueling marital instability.



## 50% CHILD POVERTY RATE

In Youngstown, 68 percent of children are born into marriage-less households, and 50 percent of children are in poverty. Meanwhile, in New Albany, 8 percent of children are born into marriage-less households, and only 4 percent of children are in poverty. This trend tracks across Ohio: the more marriage decreases in parenthood, the more child poverty increases.



## 28TH IN ON-TIME GRADUATION

Comparatively high family instability across the state is undoubtedly one reason Ohio ranked 28th in on-time high school graduation. We know that states with a greater share of married parents have substantially higher graduation rates, even after controlling for states' median income, race/ethnicity, education level, and age composition.

## 12X MORE VIOLENCE

Ohio cities with a greater percentage of children raised in married households have less violent crime. Compare Dublin, where 86 percent of children are raised by married parents, to Canton, where only 34 percent of children are raised with married parents. Canton experiences 12 times the amount of violent crime incidents compared to Dublin. While many factors contribute to violence in communities, family structure is undeniably impactful.



## 11% DECREASE IN FERTILITY RATE

Family formation is down in Ohio, as fertility falls in the state. The total number of births per year to Ohio residents has declined since 2005. The average number of lifetime births per Ohio woman (the Total Fertility Rate) has declined by 11 percent, from 1.9 births per woman in 2010 to 1.7 births per woman in 2022. Notably, the Total Fertility Rate is below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman.

These are just a few examples of the stark realities revealed in *Hope and a Future*. But as the title of the report implies, there is a path forward. We didn't get to this point overnight, and getting back on track will not happen quickly. That's why *Hope and a Future* also outlines a strategic, holistic plan to rebuild strong and stable families in Ohio that will require both Church and State solutions.



## STATE SOLUTIONS

As detailed in *Hope and a Future*, public policy plays a key role in both promoting a culture that celebrates marriage and family, and removing the barriers that are discouraging Americans from marriage. Center for Christian Virtue is currently working on three main public policy objectives:

- **Eliminate Marriage Penalties**
- **Empower Youth with the Success Sequence**
- **Celebrate Marriage**

## CHURCH SOLUTIONS

While there are needed solutions from the state, this is not a job for the government alone. The Church in Ohio must lead the way in championing the beauty and goodness of marriage. To play an essential role in rebuilding a healthy family culture, churches should:

### **Expand Marriage and Family Ministry**

Churches that emphasize marriage and family meet the needs of their congregants and communities. Research from *Communio*, a national organization committed to supporting the local church's marriage and family ministry, shows this emphasis contributes to evangelism and church growth.

### **Celebrate Marriage**

Churches in Ohio should also be very clear about underlining the value of a faith-based marriage and family life. Couples who attend religious services together are significantly more likely to be happily and stably married.

### **Preach What is True and Beautiful**

Marriage is the most common pathway for the faithful to grow in holiness and happiness. Accordingly, churches must routinely proclaim an inspiring vision of marriage where the beauty, goodness, power, and difficulties of marriage and family life can be shared in age-appropriate ways to the entire congregation.



A photograph of a young Black couple sitting at a table, their hands clasped in prayer. The woman is in the foreground, looking down with a serene expression. The man is slightly behind her, also looking down. The image is framed by a soft green border. Overlaid on the lower half of the image is a white text box containing a Bible verse.

AS THE BRIDEGROOM REJOICES  
OVER THE BRIDE, SO SHALL YOUR  
GOD REJOICE OVER YOU.

ISAIAH 62:5





# EQUIPPING CHURCHES

## EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO EVANGELIZE THROUGH THE RENEWAL OF HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, MARRIAGE, & THE FAMILY

Center for Christian Virtue has partnered with Communio to provide Ohio churches with the needed resources for the culture-shaping work of restoring marriages and families.

Communio equips churches with a proven strategic framework, 21st-century data tools, and a ministry game plan that helps put church and community members onto a growth journey toward healthier and holier relationships.

Communio works with a church's leadership team to select, promote, and run large, attractional community outreach events that flow people into ongoing engagement, and ultimately into skill-based relationship ministry.

The end result is churches that are equipped to run a Data-Informed, Full-Circle Relationship Ministry® to strengthen marriages, grow membership, increase faith in Jesus, and transform communities.



# COMMUNIO

## FAMILY DECLINE DRIVES FAITH DECLINE

For the first time in the Gallup Poll's nearly century-long history, a majority of Americans say they do not belong to any house of worship. That constitutes a 23-percentage-point decline in the number of Americans who said they belong to a house of worship since the year 2000.

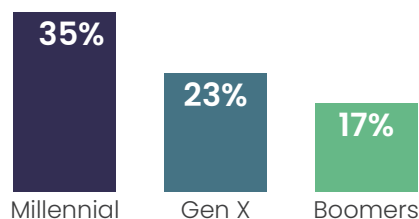
The source of this collapse in faith is the crisis in the family. It has battered society and reduced belief in Jesus Christ. New research shows a Millennial and Gen Xer who grew up in a continuously married home goes to church every week at nearly the exact same rate as a Baby Boomer. In other

words, our churches would be full today if Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z enjoyed the same family structure as Baby Boomers.

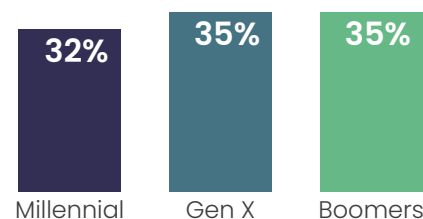
So far, the Church has struggled to address this marriage and relationship crisis, threatening the future of Christianity. Eighty-five percent of all churches report spending \$0 annually on marriage and relationship ministry.

Cooperating with the Holy Spirit, and strategically closing this ministry gap, can bring revival to our churches and to our world.

## THE RISE OF THE RELIGIOUS "NONES" IS DRIVEN BY FAMILY STRUCTURE



Percentage with no religious affiliation (as of 2015)^



All generations attend church regularly at almost the same rate if parents remained continuously married.\*

## FAMILY STRUCTURE IS KEY FOR PASSING ON THE FAITH

**78%**

Millennials from married homes are 78 percent more likely to attend church than their peers from unmarried homes.



In 1970, **40 percent** of all households were married households with children.

Today, just **17.8 percent** of all households are married households with children.



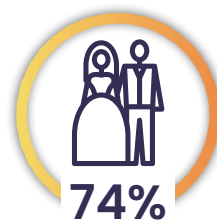


## THE MOST URGENT MINISTRY GAP FOR THE CHURCH

With a direct relationship between the strength of married life and active church participation, churches overwhelmingly focus on this vital area of ministry, right? Unfortunately, no.



of all churches in America lack a substantive marriage ministry.



of all churches have no ministry for newlyweds helping them through their first critical years of marriage.



of all churches do not offer ministries that encourage healthy habits around dating or discerning the right spouse for marriage.



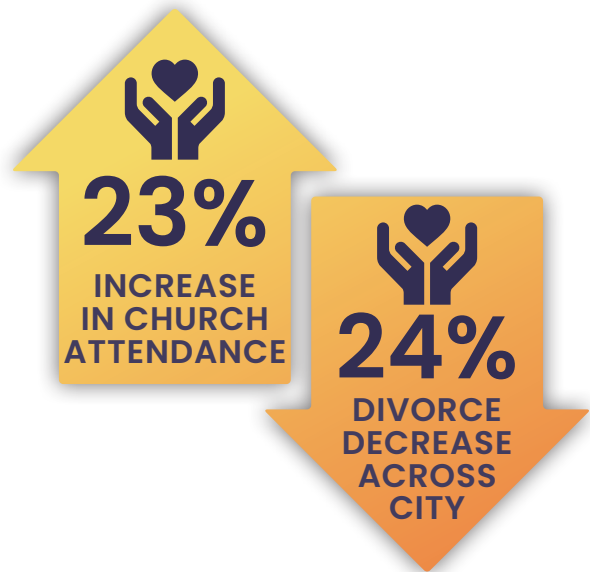
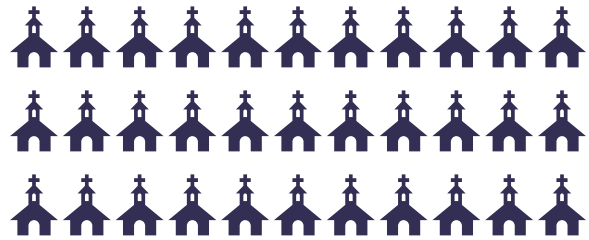
of churches spend **zero** percent of their budgets on marriage and relationship ministries.

## THE INNOVATIVE CHURCH IS THE SOLUTION

Communio equips the most innovative churches to evangelize an increasingly post-Christian world. Using a 21st-century model allows churches to do an ancient thing in our current era.

Communio's strategies are distilled from the findings of a successful \$20 million-dollar test in several markets, most notably in Jacksonville, Florida, where the divorce rate county-wide decreased 24% in 3 years. Additionally, 33 partner churches in several areas across the country saw their attendance and giving increase by 23% and 28% respectively over 2 years.

### 33 PARTNER CHURCHES



### WHAT A PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNIO BRINGS TO A CHURCH:



#### MORE GROWTH

"Communio has been an incredible asset to us as a church, reaching our neighborhood in ways we could not."

**Tim Hall**  
Senior Pastor, Crosspoint



#### MORE ENGAGEMENT

"We can't not afford to do Communio. Many people participate in our marriage ministry before they even step foot into our auditorium on a Sunday."

**Roger Gibson**  
Pastor, Fellowship of the Parks



#### MORE CHRIST-CENTERED MARRIAGE

"This program saved our marriage."

**Samantha**  
"The ministry really saved us a lot of issues and stress."

**Tammy**



# COMMUNIO

## HOW COMMUNIO SUPPORTS YOUR CHURCH

Communio supports churches to solve the family crisis and ultimately renew faith in Jesus by providing:



**TOOLS:** Communio empowers churches with the ability to reach people they could not otherwise.



**STRATEGIES:** Communio provides evidence-based strategies that have proven to grow churches and multiply healthy relationships.



**RESOURCES:** Communio is a nonprofit ministry serving churches with a spirit of generosity.





GET THEM HERE  
HELP THEM GROW





## A DATA-INFORMED, FULL-CIRCLE RELATIONSHIP MINISTRY

### COMMUNIO'S PROVEN APPROACH

- Data-informed means using first-party surveys, commercially available consumer data, and your church's historical growth data to analyze ministry needs and opportunities of your members and community. That data fuels the design and implementation of a customized engagement and outreach strategy to improve the relationship health of your community and grow your church.
- A Full-Circle Relationship Ministry® provides vision, community, and skills to individuals at each stage of a relationship: single, engaged, married, and those with marriages in need. Communio provides ministry consultation as well as marketing and outreach services to help your church build out this important area of ministry.

## THE FULL-CIRCLE RELATIONSHIP FRAMEWORK



## THE MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT LADDER®

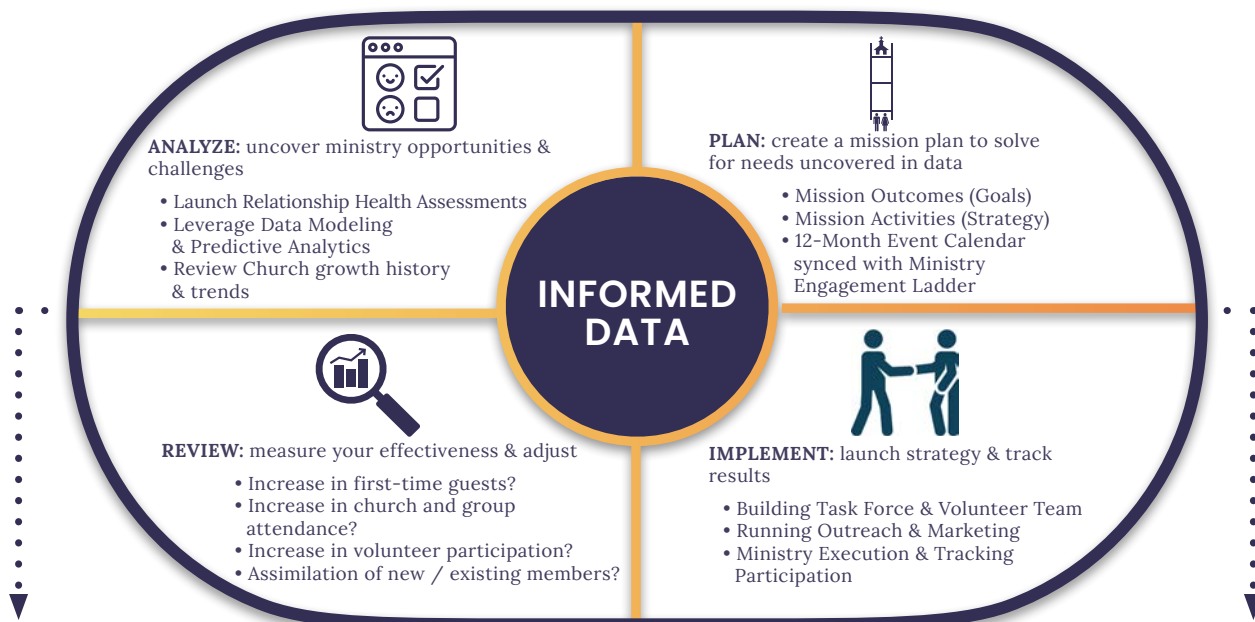
The Ministry Engagement Ladder® is a strategic framework that helps your church build and implement a multi-step journey toward greater relationship health for your members and those in your surrounding community. It begins with an invitation that helps you disciple and move a large group of people from outreach into ongoing engagements and ultimately into growth journeys, where skills-based relationship ministry content is delivered in small or large group settings. It is at this final stage where individuals and couples learn and apply skills that transform marriages and relationships.



## LAUNCH AN INSIDE-OUTSIDE STRATEGY

Following a data-informed approach to ministry, Communio walks your church through a recurring four-step cycle for understanding the unique needs and opportunities of your church. This includes helping your team design and implement a plan to achieve measurable Mission Outcomes around church growth and relationship health.

This recurring process, based on a proven cycle of continuous improvement followed by the nation's most successful churches, businesses, and organizations, gives your church access to key data on the effectiveness of your ministry, and allows you to quickly make changes as more data becomes available.



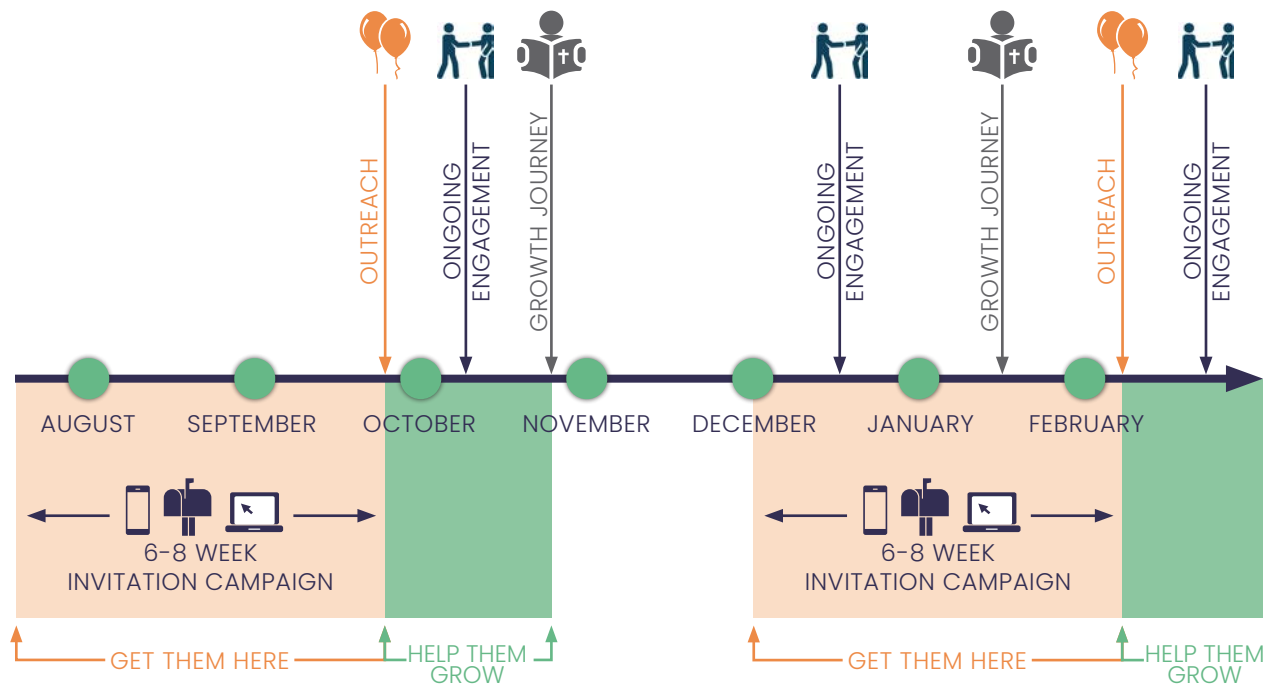
**STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS**  
**Within your membership**

**INCREASE ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**  
**from those the community**



## THE MODEL IN ACTION

Let's flip the Ministry Engagement Ladder® on its side to show you what it looks like in action. Communio provides you with church strategists to support your team through every step of this process—from marketing campaigns and designing ministry activities to equipping your church with the necessary training for fruitful implementation.

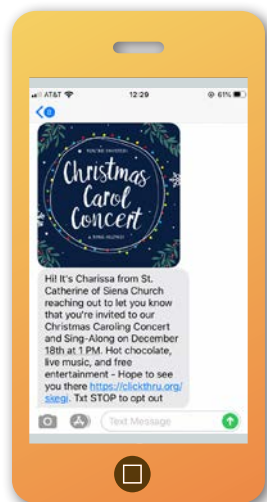




# MULTICHANNEL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

## Direct Mail

**Tangible and Personal Impact:** Direct mail remains effective due to its tangible, personal impact, creating a memorable emotional connection through physical, tailored pieces. It boasts higher response rates, with studies showing 5 to 9% for house lists compared to 1% for email.

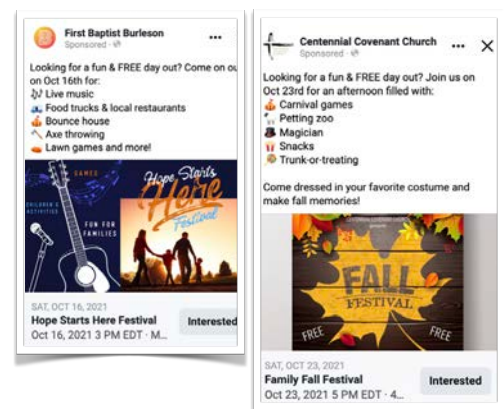


## Text Campaign

**Enhancing Engagement and Urgency:** Texting delivers instant, concise reminders, reinforcing the direct mail message with timely call-to-actions. It drives higher response rates by combining direct mail's tangible impact with SMS's 98% open rate.

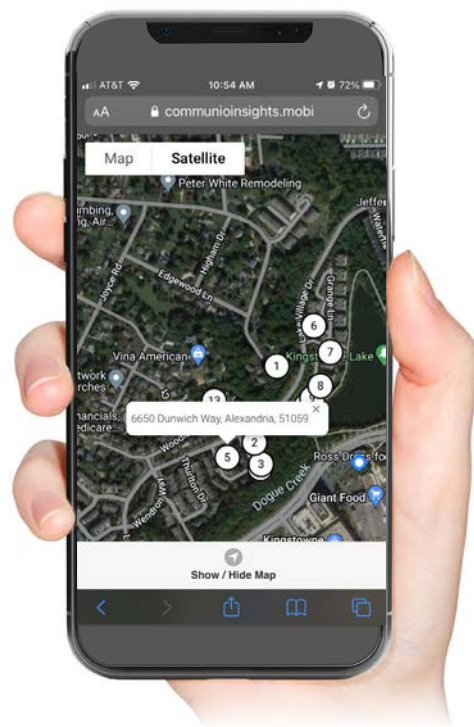
## Social Media

**Familiarity and Reinforcement:** Social media builds familiarity through targeted posts, reinforcing the messaging and urgency of direct mail and texting. With 80% of consumers engaging brands online, this multi-channel synergy boosts recall, encourages sharing, and enhances response rates for time-sensitive or personalized promotions.



## Connecting with Community

**“Walk the Block”:** Door-to-door visits allow genuine, face-to-face introductions, fostering trust and community connection. This human interaction reinforces campaign messaging, making the brand more relatable and memorable. It strengthens recall of mailed or texted promotions, as neighbors associate the personal encounter with the campaign, boosting engagement and response rates.



## Multi-Lingual Options

**“Se Habla...”:** Offering a multi-lingual option in a campaign enhances direct mail, texting, social media, and “walk the block” efforts by broadening reach and building inclusivity. It connects with diverse communities, ensuring clear communication in preferred languages, which fosters trust and engagement. Multi-lingual materials and interactions resonate culturally, increasing response rates—studies show 70% of consumers prefer content in their native language.

## PROVEN MINISTRY STRATEGIES

### One-On-One Consultation

Receive one-on-one consultation to help your church analyze, plan, implement, review and improve your church's evangelizing relationship ministry.

Your church will receive hands-on, strategic consultation from two dedicated Communio staff focused on facilitating your church's success in building and running its own evangelizing relationship ministry. This is separate from and in addition to having the support of Communio's world class marketing and outreach team.

Communio invests so much time and staff attention in our church partners because the Church is the solution. Another program or a slick campaign will not solve the crises

of family and faith, and there is no "easy button" to get out of it.

To solve a crisis of this magnitude, one must deploy a comprehensive strategy, guided by the Holy Spirit, that can touch all facets of church life, building disciples, and transforming your community.

The Communio team has more than a century of senior level ministry experience building, leading, and supporting churches at every stage of church life.

### Playbooks and Guides

The most proven *Outreach* and *Ongoing Engagement* concepts that churches have run around the nation

Communio has supported the deployment of Outreach Events and Ongoing Engagement concepts around the nation. These come with a rigorous post-mortem to understand what worked and what didn't. Your church leverages the learnings of thousands of church staff and outreach teams to deploy only the most effective concepts.

## CONSULTING AND TRAINING

### Proven Curated Content

Evaluated from publishers around the nation to assist your church's growth journey

A lack of life-changing content is not the problem. Getting this life-changing content into the hands of those who need it remains a central problem for churches. Communio works with the most proven publishers and champions relationship health to ensure that your church can tap into what works best and maximizes participation from your church and your community.

Communio also works with churches that already have highly effective marriage and relationship health programs. In these situations, our team supports your church to catalyze a far greater number of participants in the ministry.



**Brad Wilcox**

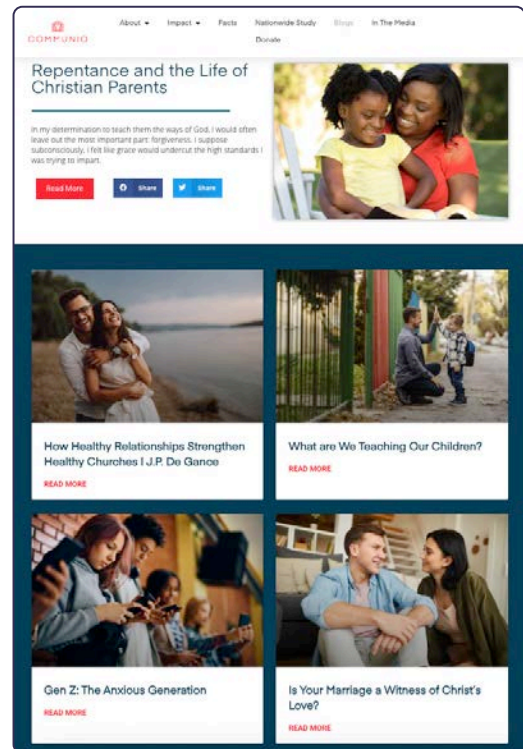
Professor of Sociology and Director of the National Marriage Project, University of Virginia



## A Catalog Of Resources

Relationship skills exercises, conversation questions, and other activities to infuse into existing ministries or events

Communio is not bringing another program to your church. This is a comprehensive strategy that can touch every facet of your church and community. Communio's experienced ministry team has created a set of relationship skills exercises corresponding to the five interpersonal and five intra-personal skills that research says are essential to thriving relationships. You'll also receive couple's conversation questions, testimonial archetypes, and other ministry resources for use in Outreach Events, Ongoing Engagements, or in any other area of your church's ministry.



## Video Training Modules

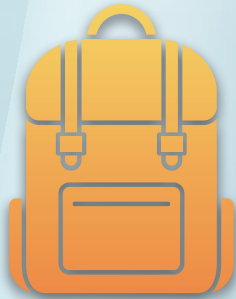
For church staff and volunteers on Full-Circle Relationship Ministry®



Communio's strategists work closely with your staff to design and implement your evangelizing relationship ministry. Successful ministries have volunteers who support specific elements. Your church can access a full suite of training modules that break down Communio's entire system and strategic framework into short segments allowing an unlimited number of volunteers and staff to receive follow up training to implement and scale the ministry. This includes modules on everything from our proven process to modules on Christian hospitality, maximizing engagement, and best practices for effective support to marriages in crisis.

## LAUNCHING YOUR FULL-CIRCLE RELATIONSHIP MINISTRY®

Partnership should begin 10 to 12 weeks before your ministry publicly launches in your church. There are three ideal times a year this ministry rolls out to the church and community:



### PUBLIC LAUNCH

Post-Labor Day  
Back To School

Planning Phase  
June 1 – July 15



### PUBLIC LAUNCH

Post-Christmas

Planning Phase  
Sept. 1 – Oct. 15



### PUBLIC LAUNCH

Easter Season

Planning Phase  
Jan. 1 – Feb. 15

For example, a Spring public launch would follow a timeline similar to the example below:

TASK	START DATE	END DATE	TIME ELAPSED
Contract Service Begins	January 1	January 1	1 day
Orientation Call: Engagement Director / Strategist	January 3	January 3	3 days
Relationship Health Assessment: Mobile Survey / Data Modeling	January 18	January 25	18 to 26 days
Strategic Planning	February 9	February 9	40 days
Initial Task Force Meeting: Mission Plan	February 11	February 11	42 days
Outreach Campaign: Submitted	February 18	February 18	49 days
Outreach Campaign: Approved	February 19	March 11	49 to 70 days
Outreach Campaign: Initiated	March 11	April 1	70 to 90 days
Public Launch: Outreach Event	April 1	April 1	90 days

Total days for launch process: 90

## IS COMMUNIO A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR CHURCH?

Working with many different churches across the country, we've learned that there are certain unique elements Communio brings to the table and certain other elements that must align between the Church and Communio. When Communio and your church have alignment, it leads to great efficacy. This section will help you look at key attributes many of our most fruitful churches share.

### 1) Pastor on Mission

The Senior Pastor should have a mission mindset focused on spreading the gospel in his community. He should be willing to be seen as the visible head of the evangelism and relationship ministry of the church. While he is not the source of the main implementation, he needs to be a visible and vocal advocate.

The Pastor should be willing to play a public role in the ministry and is responsible for advancing and casting a vision where relationship health, marriage, and strengthening the domestic church takes a central place within the church.

### 2) Staff on Mission

No matter the size of the church, the Senior Pastor sets the direction, priorities, pace, and culture for the church. In smaller churches, he may be the implementor of the evangelism and relationship ministries. In all churches, someone has to “own” the ministry, have an enthusiasm for it, and be accountable for its execution and success. This staff member must be aligned with the Senior Pastor.

We highly encourage “the equipping of the saints to do the work of the ministry,” but 100 percent volunteer implementation has been problematic.

### 3) Willingness to Designate Church Resources to Evangelism, Outreach and Relationship Ministries

Communio's niche is what we call the “Innovative Church.”

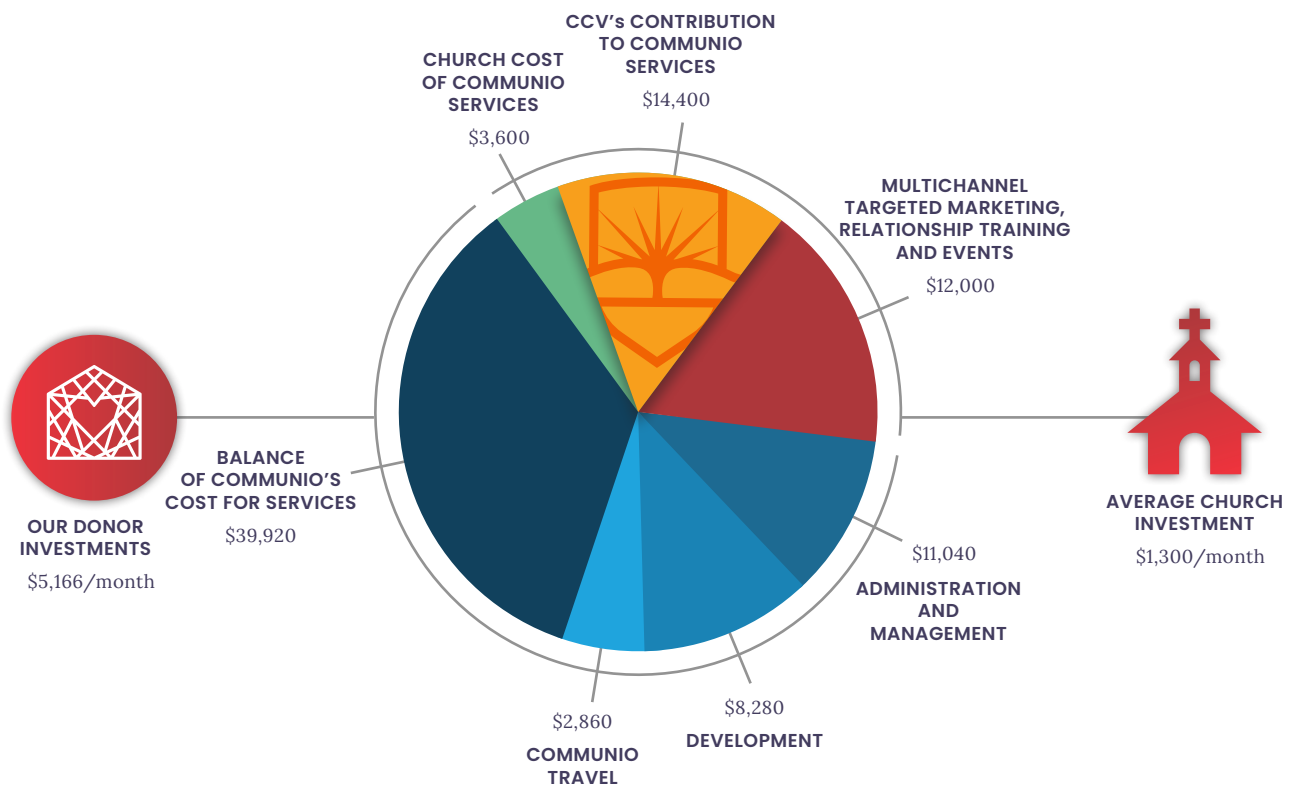
Because of our values and our passion, we want to work with any church, no matter where they are in their life cycle, from the “Church Plant” to the “Legacy Church.” But we also realize that not all churches have the same level of desire and the capacity to innovate to address the family crisis today. It's our job to uncover those churches with that desire and capacity to innovate.

It has always cost the church something to reach people and to meet their needs. There must be a willingness to allocate modest, but meaningful resources to marriage and relationship ministry.

## COMMUNIO'S AMAZING SUPPORT

### Most of Communio's Unique Tools, Resources, and Strategies Funded by Generous Donors

The church remains the best hope to save the family. Our donors understand this reality, which is why every \$1.00 your church invests with Communio, our donors contribute \$2.00. Now, thanks to the CCV partnership and discount, every \$1.00 your church invests, donors are contributing \$4.00 (\$1300/mo church and & \$5200 CCV/Communio). Your investment in this significant undertaking signals your commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. It releases our commitment and support to you and your work.



In lieu of the typical \$65,000 contribution required to establish a Mission Agreement with Communio, Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is generously funding this initial investment on behalf of Ohio-based denominational partners. This foundational support enables Communio to provide strategic consulting, planning, and tools at no upfront cost to the denomination and at a 75% discount to the local churches which reduces the monthly consulting fee from \$1500/mo to \$300/mo.



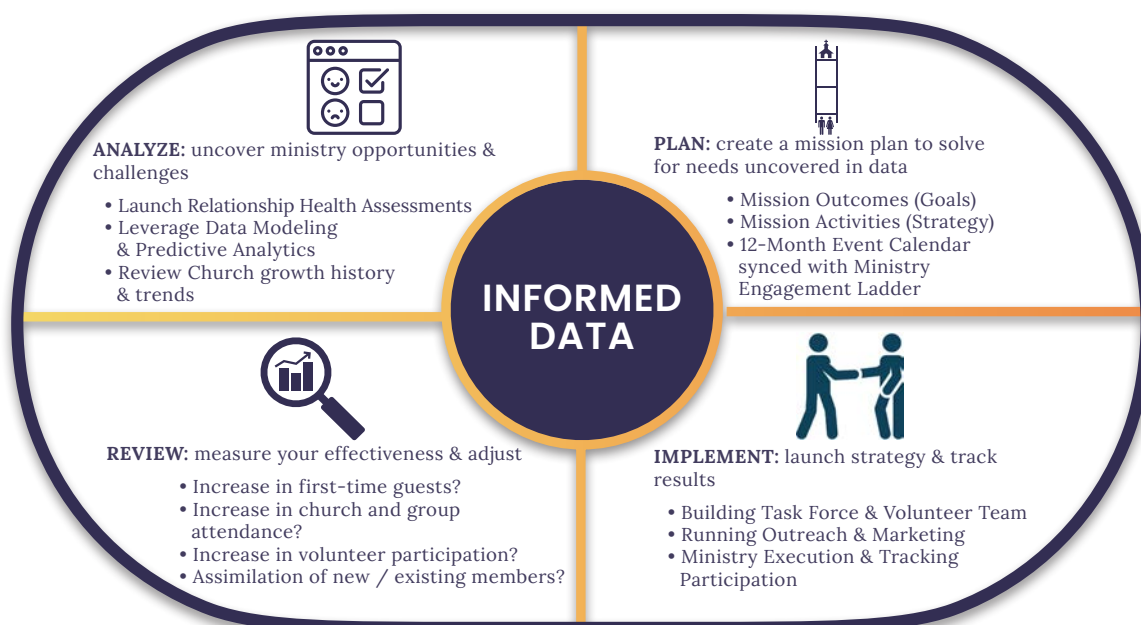
## EQUIPPING YOUR CHURCH

### Catalyze healthy relationship and save the family

Communio is a nonprofit ministry with generous donors sold out on the belief that the Body of Christ – the Church – is THE solution to our family and faith crisis. Another program cannot solve this crisis. It requires comprehensive and strategic action by your church to solve it within your walls and across your community.

By working with Communio, your church receives the following resources:

- **Staff Resources:** Two experienced church strategists will invest time and attention in your church to reach your goals.
- **Tools:** Localized access to a national consumer file of 257 million Americans with proprietary data models built for ministry along with a world-class marketing team helping you reach prospective members via social media, email, text, mail, and even through door-to-door outreach.
- **Strategies:** Evidence-based strategies gathered from around the nation proven to grow your church, increase engagement, and build Christ-centered marriages.



TO LEARN MORE, EMAIL CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CHRIS LIGHTFOOT AT [CHRISLIGHTFOOT@CCV.ORG](mailto:CHRISLIGHTFOOT@CCV.ORG)



## A CALL TO *METANOIA*: TRANSFORMATION IN HOW WE THINK ABOUT SHARING THE GOSPEL IN OUR REVOLUTIONARY MOMENT

*Metanoia* is within the very first phrase spoken by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 1:14-15). Often translated into English as “repentance” or “transformation” – a complete change in our way of thinking. Following Jesus requires us to embrace *metanoia*. This is the hallmark of the gospel, turning from sin to Christ.

To stop our society’s flight from faith in Jesus Christ, pastors and local church leaders must experience a new *metanoia* – a transformation in how we think about sharing the gospel and how we approach ministry in the local church – which reflects this revolutionary moment.

Because the collapse of marriage, resident fatherhood, and effective fatherhood are at the heart of the decline in the number of those in America who believe the gospel, a renewal of marriage and godly fatherhood must be at the center of the revival. Absent a miraculous intervention of the Holy Spirit, revival requires a Christ-centered, relationship revolution.

**Let’s be clear:** Satan did not lay waste to marriage, fatherhood, and the family through a \$499, six-week kit. No one-time kit, multi-week lecture series or annual anti-family retreat organized by Satan did this to humanity. We will not fix this problem with our own set of \$499, six-week kits or sermon series. While these tactical tools can be part of the solution, revival requires us to use our entire heart, mind, soul, and strength to bring about a systematic and strategic response placing the first thing of Christian marriage first.

For believers, we know the devil is real and he has been hard at work on his own strategy to destroy faith in Jesus Christ. He’s exacted the most extensive damage to faith by driving a cement truck through God’s salvific icons of fatherhood, marriage, and the sexual embrace.

All of the best science continues to show us that we are made for life-long relationship.

- Marriage remains in our deepest desires and aspirations. Gen Z polling shows 66 percent are excited about the idea of getting married and 72 percent describe their feelings as anticipatory.
- According to the government's own data, crunched by Dr. Brad Wilcox in his book *Get Married*, Americans most likely to be happy are married who have children. When comparing them to other Americans – It. Is. Not. Even. Close.

## THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED THE WORLD, CAN DO SO AGAIN

Throughout history, the church transformed the world through the Gospel.

- Many forget that the first sexual revolution occurred closer to the 60s A.D. In ancient Rome, it was accepted practice for married men to seek sexual gratification through boys, prostitutes, or other women. Scholars now recognize that the church's elevation of women and marriage launched the original sexual revolution – that converted the ancient world and created the modern West.
- Slavery was ever-present in society across human history. Christians created the abolition movement that succeeded first in the West and ultimately triumphed across the globe.
- In the early 1800s, the average American consumed 1.5 liters of 80 proof alcohol every week, producing societal-wide damage. The church in America created the temperance movement, which successfully changed the culture and reduced alcohol consumption by 70 percent by the late 1800s.

The time has come for the church to change the world, again. With the erosion of the Christian faith, caused by the destruction of relationships and marriage, there is much to do. “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” (Matthew 9:37)

Thank you for joining the harvest.



**CHURCH  
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*A Ministry of Center for Christian Virtue*



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