

TEN WAYS the FCA helps our CHURCH, PASTORS, and MINISTRIES

1. The FCA multiplies our ministry impact.

We do a lot in ministry, but we can do much more working *with* others than we can working *on our own!* And as we share ministry with other like-minded churches, we expand the impact of our church.

Also, when our pastors and leaders receive encouragement and inspiration through FCA regional "connections" of ministers and national conventions, our local efforts are strengthened.

But we can take it further. Our missionary endeavors are strengthened when churches add their dollars and efforts together with ours to support FCA missionaries.

We want to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission, and partnering with others in the FCA is a great way to multiply our world-wide impact. Whether it's missions abroad – or starting new churches here at home – the FCA helps us multiply our impact.

2. The FCA guides through troubled waters.

We don't like to think it can happen to us, but internal problems or disputes can disturb the peace within any congregation. If unresolved, the ministry of even our church could be compromised.

That's why the FCA provides a network of leading ministers (called **Fellowship Elders**) who are available regionally to help with conflict mediation for any local church asking for help. There is no heavy-handed "bishop" or "apostolic" authority to dictate a congregation's future – only loving, caring counsel for ministers and churches to consider and adopt if they so desire.

We may never need that kind of help, but

it's good to know that it's available in case we do. It's also reassuring to know that any pastor who may need a personal retreat, an off-site restoration ministry, or counseling can find such ministries through the assistance of the FCA.

3. The FCA helps in pastoral searches.

Seeking qualified, experienced ministry leaders is never easy. When our pastor moves to a new place or our church goes through other shifts in leadership, we'll need to find a way forward. It's good to know that we have the network and connections within the FCA to help us track down available candidates with proven track records.



Fellowship Elders (see #2) can coach our lay leaders in finding and interviewing prospective ministers. Beyond what these regional elders can do, we can also reach out to the FCA **Lead Elder** to help us process the changes.

Fellowship Elders may also introduce us to temporary fill-in or interim ministries to help us get through our transition.

4. The FCA helps our youth.

FCA churches working together share resources that can strengthen and train the next generation. Our church joins with other area churches to develop various youth ministries such as:

- * Weekend retreats,
- * Summer camps,
- * Discipleship programs,
- * Bible schools,
- * Mission trips, and a whole lot more.



The team spirit that brings FCA youth pastors and leaders together for these ministry projects also sparks creative thinking and fresh ideas that spill over into our own youth group. It's a win-win!

5. The FCA keeps up our guard.

When evangelists or traveling ministers visit our church, it's good to know they

have associated themselves with the churches and ministers of the FCA. Beyond the personal recommendations and one-to-one referrals we will continue to use, the FCA annual listing of ministers as a resource provides us with another layer of confidence about any particular ministry.

6. The FCA connects us globally.

The annual FCA directory can link us to missionary and indigenous works around the world – a helpful tool whether we want to plan a short-term mission trip or consider a permanent call of God to the mission field.



It's important for us to know about missionaries who have gone before so we can

reach out to them and work with them. These FCA tools help us prepare our church teams and individuals for international ministry so we can partner with missionaries or indigenous pastors in various foreign fields.

7. The FCA improves our communication efforts.

The church today needs critical thinkers, equipped and prepared to address the objections of an increasingly secular society. We know that "hot-button issues" will only increase in the end times, so as believers we need to hone our skills at interacting with the world around us.

Of course, nothing can replace the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit, but we cannot abandon our responsibilities – nor our place in society. We are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

So to help each other be salt and light, the FCA provides (among other things) online resources where we can share conversation and opinion, shaped by biblical

truths. We trust these resources will help us communicate God's love and truth with both skill and heart-felt compassion.

Check out some of the blogs and ideas at www.fcaministers.com. And feel free to add your own perspective!

8. The FCA makes us part of something "bigger."

The beauty of the FCA is that it's not just another *institution* - it's about viable, life-giving **relationships**. We rely on one another, not just a system or a structure. We like to think of the FCA as an *organism* more than an *organization*.

We are committed to the local church, but we're also committed to inter-church cooperation. Working together expands our ministry impact, as mentioned earlier (see #1). But it also enhances our ministry image. And that's important because we live in a day of skepticism. It's helpful to have answers for a suspicious society.

Perhaps you've had people ask about the legitimacy of your "maverick" or "unconventional" church. They may wonder how a local, independent church, unaffiliated with a recognized denomination trains its ministers or holds them accountable.

Because our church is part of the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, however, we have an extra layer of credibility that extends beyond our local church. Our church's members and ministers are strengthened and protected through the relationships found in the FCA.

9. The FCA links us to a noble history.

Knowing our history is critical to understanding our place and role in the kingdom of God.

Our Fellowship consists of autonomous, evangelical churches with historical roots in the Pentecostal movement of the 20th century. With such a rich tradition, we are

called to share in mutual Christian care and practical cooperation in carrying out the Great Commission.

Of course, our local congregation is responsible before God to do a number of important things: preach the gospel, teach correct doctrine, prepare and equip ministry leaders, to name just a few.

We don't have to rely on our independent ingenuity to do such things, however! As part of the FCA, our church is linked with other Full-Gospel, Spirit-filled churches who together rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill their high calling.

10. And so much more!

The shared wisdom of FCA leaders and ministers continue to help us in multiple ways far beyond those listed here. Many additional resources stand at the ready.

We may, for instance, call on lead FCA churches or pastors for guidance with fundraising, referrals for legal advice, information on church liability insurance, or for advice on things as diverse as church management software or retirement 403(b) accounts.

More information on such things along with some of the wisdom of our Fellowship are archived on the FCA website.



Why is OUR church part of the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies?

Great question!

Bottom line: our church and ministers benefit by connecting with other FCA churches and ministers!

But look inside to find ten examples of how the FCA helps us do our ministry better...



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Connecting to Advance God's Kingdom

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For more information about the FCA, its historical roots, and the beliefs we share, check out our website at www.fcaministers.com.