



C12 Seattle North and the Local Church: A Summary for Pastors

December 13, 2026

Dear Pastor,

I am writing to affirm C12's deep conviction about the centrality of the local church and our commitment to support your ministry.

C12 is a Christian ministry that been around for over 30 years equipping CEOs and business owners to lead their companies as platforms for lasting Kingdom impact, building eternal value through biblical principles in the marketplace (Colossians 3:23-24).

We believe the local church is God's primary institution for worship, discipleship, shepherding, and the practice of baptism and the Lord's Supper (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 13:17). Nothing replaces it, and C12 exists solely to strengthen it.

Groups meet monthly during business hours for confidential peer accountability and biblical teaching applied to leadership. We do not preach sermons, practice baptism or the Lord's Supper, offer pastoral counseling, or exercise church discipline.

All material we create and use is grounded in Scripture. Members pursue God's best according to the Bible and avoid divisive secondary issues. Sin or ethical compromise is confronted biblically (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1), up to removal from membership, while primary shepherding remains with local elders (1 Peter 5:1-4).

Members are encouraged to grow in church faithfulness: more consistent attendance (Hebrews 10:25), generous giving to their church first (2 Corinthians 9:6-11), active service (1 Peter 4:10), and workplace evangelism (Matthew 28:19-20).

C12 member dues are a business expense covered by company resources. We teach that personal tithes belong first to the local church (1 Corinthians 16:2), and C12 meetings never take precedence over church commitments.

Our desire is to partner with you by equipping marketplace leaders in your congregation to steward their calling faithfully (1 Corinthians 4:2), with the fruit strengthening your church.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or for conversation. I welcome the opportunity to discuss alignment with your convictions or pray together.

Thank you for faithfully caring for Christ's bride. May the Lord richly bless your ministry.

For His glory,

Eric Smith
C12 Chair | Seattle North



C12 Seattle North's View of the Church and Our Commitment to Local Pastors

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1. Affirmation of the Primacy and Sufficiency of the Local Church

We believe unequivocally that the local church is God's primary and sufficient institution for the worship of Christ, the equipping of the saints, the proclamation of the gospel, and the practice of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Scripture presents the church as the pillar and support of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15) and the bride for whom Christ died (Ephesians 5:25-27). God is most glorified when His church gather to delight in Him through Word-centered preaching, corporate prayer, and the faithful practice of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Sustained joy in Christ, true spiritual growth, and reverent pursuit of God Himself are found in covenant commitment to a local body. Believers are repeatedly urged never to forsake assembling together (Hebrews 10:25), for it is in the church that God has appointed the means of grace for our sanctification, accountability, and mutual edification.

Para-church ministries, while sometimes useful for specialized encouragement or outreach, are never to compete with, dilute commitment to, or replace the place of the local church. C12 exists to serve and strengthen the local church, not to draw people's primary allegiance, time, or resources away from it.

2. C12's Role as a Para-Church Ministry

C12 is a para-church ministry dedicated to equipping Christian business owners and CEOs to build their companies for lasting Kingdom impact. The ministry exists to help marketplace leaders view their businesses as a ministry platform, integrating biblical principles into every aspect of leadership, strategy, culture, and stewardship.

The work is narrowly focused on the vocational sphere. Members commit to a straightforward membership covenant that guides healthy group function: confidentiality, mutual accountability, and active participation. Monthly peer forums, held during normal business hours, provide gospel-centered discussion and practical resources to address real business challenges: hiring, finances, ethics, workplace evangelism, and generational transition. Between meetings, members receive ongoing one-on-one coaching rooted in biblical wisdom. A consistent whole-person assessment tool is also used to prompt prayerful reflection across key life areas, including faith, family, and church involvement.



Importantly, C12 does not function as a church. Weekly sermons are not preached, baptism or the Lord's Supper are not practiced, formal pastoral counseling is not offered, and church discipline is not exercised. Gatherings are limited to once per month, and members are intentionally encouraged to prioritize their local church commitments: Sunday worship, small groups, service, and giving. The coaching and assessments are meant to reinforce, not replace, the shepherding found in their local church. The deepest desire is to send business leaders back to their churches as more faithful, generous, discerning, and active members, bringing the fruit of their vocational stewardship into the life of the body.

3. Personal Testimony of Commitment to My Local Church

For the past 13 years, my family and I have been covenanted members of Crossway Fellowship, a smaller church body marked by sound biblical teaching, genuine warmth, and gracious expectations. What first drew us was the way the church embraced our family, especially our daughter with special needs. They welcomed us to come as we are, without pretense, and provided the spiritual feeding and encouragement we needed.

Over the years, we have served in a variety of ways. I have led worship and helped with sound ministry. My wife and I now co-lead our Disability Ministry, where I teach a Sunday school class for those affected by disability and she leads a care group for mothers of children with special needs. We are also actively working to create more opportunities for members of the disability community to serve within the broader life of the church. We attend weekly services as a family, participate in men's and women's Bible studies, and belong to a community group. Our youngest daughter has attended the youth group and has loved learning about God there. Our oldest daughter, now married and starting her own family, continues to attend Crossway with her husband and children. Though their lives are very busy, they faithfully host the community group that we attend. We also help coordinate our church's significant involvement with Joni & Friends Family Camps, where more than a third of our congregation volunteers each summer.

The church has been our lifeline in hard seasons. Our leadership walked with us through challenging times in our marriage and has actively joined us in serving the disability community. We tithe on our gross income first to Crossway before supporting any other ministries. We have learned from our pastors, particularly our counseling pastor and our teaching pastor, Moises Ortiz, that the local church is God's primary design for our growth, care, and gospel living. Para-church ministries can offer specialized encouragement, but they must never displace the centrality of the local body. My own experiences leading businesses have taught me how easily work can crowd out church life. Yet the flexibility and authentic relationships with our elders have enabled me to serve joyfully as I am able, always keeping the local church first.

4. Commitment to Doctrinal Alignment and Sound Theology

C12 is unashamedly Christian and firmly committed to the authority of Scripture as a foundation for all teaching, coaching, and peer accountability. All materials and forums are grounded in the Bible, applied practically to marketplace leadership with a focus on stewardship, integrity, gospel witness, and building businesses for eternal impact.

Membership involves agreement to a doctrine statement that calls for acceptance and obedience to Jesus Christ is Lord in accordance to Biblical authority while avoiding divisive behavior. This allows leaders from a variety of Christian traditions to collaborate fruitfully without debating secondary issues.



5. On Unity, Accountability, and Avoiding Doctrinal Compromise

C12 maintains unity by focusing narrowly on the shared calling of marketplace stewardship and by requiring members to pursue God's best according to Scripture while refraining from divisive behavior on secondary issues.

Personal sin, ethical compromise, or departure from biblical standards in business or life are confronted directly and biblically within the group: first privately, then with witnesses, and, when necessary, with firm accountability up to and including removal from membership.

At the same time, primary shepherding, church discipline, and oversight of members' full doctrinal convictions are intentionally left to their local church, whom God has ordained for that role. Members may be reminded to remain submitted to their pastors and to bring any areas of spiritual concern there first. The goal is to reinforce, never undermine, the authority and care of the local church.

6. Encouragement of Deeper Church Involvement

One of the fruits hoped to be seen in C12 members is a commitment to their local churches. As leaders grow in understanding God's ownership of their businesses and the eternal perspective of their work, desired outcomes are more faithful Sunday attendance, consistent prioritizing of family and church commitments over lesser demands, and more generous tithing and support of ministries at their church.

In short, the goal is to send marketplace leaders back as stronger pillars in the congregation: more prayerful, more submissive to their elders, more eager to build up the body, and more equipped to live out the gospel in every sphere of life

7. Practical Expectations if Referring Members

If a business owner or CEO from a congregation is referred to C12, here is what to expect. The process begins with an introductory conversation to explore fit and answer questions. If they decide to join, they are placed in a local peer forum of 8–12 like-minded Christian leaders who meet monthly for a full day during normal business hours.

Each meeting follows a consistent agenda: confidential sharing of current business opportunities and challenges, biblical teaching applied to leadership, peer accountability, and practical resource exchanges. Between meetings, members receive ongoing one-on-one coaching from their C12 Chair. All discussions are strictly confidential, and high standards are maintained for group health and participation.

Membership dues are treated as a business expense, typically covered from company resources as professional development, similar to industry conferences or executive coaching, rather than from personal finances. Members are explicitly taught and encouraged that personal tithes and primary giving belong first to the local church. Attendance at C12 never takes precedence over Sunday worship, small groups, or family commitments. Open communication is also encouraged: if a member's involvement ever seems to detract from church life, direct feedback from their pastor is welcomed.

In short, a referral to C12 is an investment in equipping a marketplace leader to steward their calling more faithfully, with fruit flowing back to strengthen the church.



8. Closing Invitation to Partnership

Gratitude is extended to you who shepherd God's people week in and week out. Your labor in preaching the Word, practicing baptism and the Lord's Supper, and caring for souls is the frontline of Kingdom advancement. C12 exists to come alongside and support that work by equipping marketplace leaders in congregations to live out their faith more fully in their vocational calling.

It would be counted a privilege to partner in serving the members of the church. C12 leaders are always available to talk further, pray together, or explore how C12 might strengthen the ministry God has entrusted. Thank you for considering this, and may the Lord continue to bless the church richly.