

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



## NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH LOVES TO GIVE GENEROUSLY

“Freely you have received; freely give.” Those words of Jesus, found in Matthew 10:8, are more than a sentiment to the people of Neighborhood Church in Adrian, Michigan. Since its launch in January, 2016, they have had significant opportunities to both receive and give.

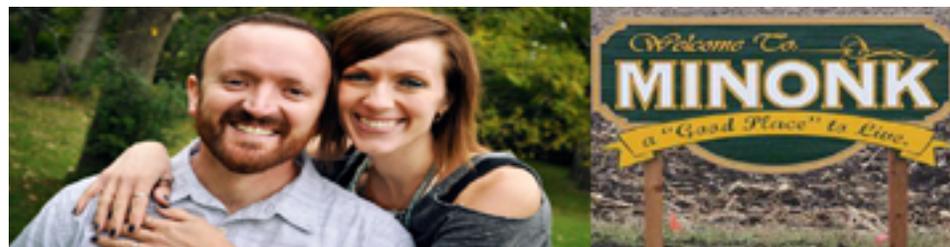
Their first opportunity to receive came when they acquired a building from an older FEC church whose pastor was retiring. Archbold Evangelical Church, Archbold, Ohio, provided the renovations that the building needed. Having a low-cost building has allowed the church to offer the space to its neighbors for personal use. When a men’s homeless shelter needed a temporary home to run their programs, Neighborhood Church welcomed them.

From the start, Neighborhood Church has committed to give away what they didn’t need. That commitment includes giving away 10%. Pastor Nate Hamblin explains another principle that guides their giving. “Once we have 3 months of operating expenses saved,

we want to give any extra cash away. We are trying to operate as simply as we can.”

When Neighborhood Church launched in 2016, Comins Community Church in Comins, Michigan, gave a \$2500 gift to the new church to offset startup costs. Remembering their generosity and the expenses involved, Neighborhood Church sent a \$2500 gift to Southside Community Church, Wooster, Ohio, after their launch.

Last October, 2018, they received a generous gift from Solid Rock Community Church in West Unity, Ohio, for neighborhood outreach. After using the money to paint a house on their block and host a neighborhood party, they decided to use the rest to buy gift cards for the homes on their street. In December, they gave the gift cards away while Christmas caroling. Hamblin says, “We wanted to give them something simply because they are our neighbor.”



## Erik at Minonk

At FEC, we celebrate when new churches are launched, but few people see behind the scenes of a church plant before the launch. In October, 2019, a new church will be planted in Minonk, Illinois. That idea was born when 6 area pastors began meeting in 2016 to pray about reaching the surrounding communities.

While those six pastors were meeting and discussing the possibility of planting a church in Minonk, God was training a young pastor to lead it. In 2016, Erik Johnson was serving on staff with Crosspoint Community Church in Eureka, Illinois. When the plans for a church in Minonk began to take shape, the group turned to Erik. In October, 2017, he and his wife, Bree, began praying about the opportunity to lead the plant in Minonk and waited.

In May, 2018, Erik and Bree attended the FEC church planter’s assessment in Fort Wayne which affirmed their calling from God to plant a church, and they began the long-term planning process. That process begins with a Target Analysis Process (TAP) to ensure that the church will be planted in the right place by the right person. The TAP process takes 8-10 weeks and a team of 8-12 people.

After the TAP data has been collected, Erik will begin recruiting and training a launch team this summer. His family plans to relocate to Minonk this summer, too, and become a part of their new community.

## New Anthem Celebrates 5 Years & Changed Lives

New Anthem Community Church wants to be known as a movement of love and hope in Park City, Kansas, instead of just another church. In their first 5 years, they have witnessed changed lives and made an impact on the community around them that proves they are becoming a movement.

New Anthem launched 5 years ago with a simple vision: To be a church that unchurched people love to attend. Today, At least one third of the people who attend New Anthem were not associated with a church before discovering it. Their stories include restored marriages and people who have a new purpose.

New Anthem also works to impact their community. Their first priority is the school where they meet on weekends. They find ways to help the school like buying items they need, supplying lunch for teachers, or providing volunteers for school events. They also partner with local organizations like the food bank and the police department. Recently, the church gave the local police department a \$4000 donation. These actions are the efforts of a church that is trying to lead in their community and let them know that God is for them.

Watch their 5-year anniversary video on Facebook (@NewAnthemChurch) and listen to the stories of lives that have been changed.



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