



GCI *Buzz*

What is a:
**Focus
Neighborhood**

More on <https://resources.gci.org/love>



fo·cus neigh·bor·hood

02

/'fōkəs/ /'nābər,hood/

noun

1. The community you have prayerfully discerned and agreed to engage with as a congregation.

More on <https://resources.gci.org/love>



Focus Neighborhood

03

Could Look Like:

1. The community surrounding your church building

Ex: Young professionals, Mobile home community...

2. The predominant age group or family type

Ex: Young families, college kids...

3. Affinity groups within your neighborhood

Ex: Hiking groups, LARPer...

4. A group of underserved individuals in the community

Ex: Elderly, Single parents...

5. Individuals brought to the area based on the predominant job market

Ex: Bankers, Brewers...

More on <https://resources.gci.org/love>



Identifying Your Focus Neighborhood

04

- **Consider the Life of Your Congregation.**

- » What are your church's:

- Skillsets & Giftings
- Mission & Purpose
- Values & Experiences

- **Exegete or Map Your Neighborhood**

- » Identify Your Neighborhood's:

- Demographics - ethnic makeup, household size, income...
- Characteristics - local rhythms, types of community events, access to public gathering spaces...
- Felt needs - gaps experienced by the community, neighbor's core longings...

- **Assess Your Resources**

- » **Internal Resources**

Ex: Congregation's giftings, Church facility...

- » **External Resources**

Ex: Local partnerships, Community programs...

More on <https://resources.gci.org/love>



Final Thoughts:

05

When discerning and engaging with your focus neighborhood your congregation must continually listen and discern where the spirit is leading you.

If your focus neighborhood is different from your current location, consider re-planting. When seeking to re-plant a church don't consider facilities first, consider focus group and focus area. Remember, Jesus' ministry is people first & people focused.

Check out these additional resources:

- [Mapping Your Neighborhood Church Hack](#)
- [Your Congregation's Resume Equipper Article](#)
- [Love Avenue Toolkit](#)

More on <https://resources.gci.org/love>

