



GCI  
**CHURCH  
HACKS**

# FINDING A NEW FACILITY

Finding a new church facility can be both exciting and intimidating. Here are some best practices to help you with your search.

## 1. KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

Take the time to exegete your neighborhood.

- » Discern what God is doing.
- » Learn about the characteristics of your neighborhood and your neighbors.
- » Learn the rhythms of your neighbors.
- » Discover the assets and needs of your community.
- » Identify your focus audience.
- » Have a clear mission and vision for how your congregation will engage with your focus neighborhood.

For more resources on exegeting your neighborhood, check out our [Love Avenue Tool Kit](#).



## 2. KNOW YOUR NEEDS AND BUDGET:

Create a list of requirements and develop a budget.

- » Work with your leadership team to consider your ministry needs. What kinds of gatherings will you host in this space?
  - Minimum requirements: a room for a worship gathering, three to four classrooms, and a foyer.
- » Before beginning a search, determine the amount of money that is available to spend on a rental facility for church events. Keep in mind that rental rates vary depending on the size of the facility, its amenities, and its location.



## 3. KNOW YOUR LEGAL AND ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Consider safety laws and accessibility.

- » Consult with a local professional contractor or architect who is familiar with the codes and standards of your area. Codes may vary based on the city or country.
- » To reflect our inclusive God, make sure your facility is accessible for everyone. For example, you may want to look for a building that has ramps, elevators, accessible bathrooms, chairs with arms, and a platform (stage) that can be reached by everyone. You may also want to consider the accessibility of the parking lot, the signage, the lighting, and the sound system.



## 4. KNOW YOUR OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Tour potential locations within your focus neighborhood and compare costs and features.

- » Visit the facilities in your area that are within your budget, meet your requirements, and meet the code and accessibility requirements you have outlined.
- » List your pros and cons for each of the facilities you visit. Is there one that best aligns with your needs?



## 5. KNOW YOUR FINAL ANSWER:

Make a decision based on your research.

- » Finalize the lease of the space.
- » Review the terms and conditions of the lease before signing.
  - Consult with our legal department at [legal.office@gci.org](mailto:legal.office@gci.org) before signing the agreement.
- » Work with your Avenue champions to develop a strategy to engage with your neighbors and share the love of Christ in your new location.



## The Essentials

Finding a new church facility is a process that requires discernment. Pray and seek your teams' guidance throughout the process.