

Building relationships with local church leaders

It is likely that many potential Key Volunteers, who are believers, will already be actively involved with a local church. We want to encourage the development of healthy relationships and active service within the church, while also offering them vision and training for movement building at their local university.

Because these students are under the pastoral authority of a local church, in some cases, we must first respectfully go to church leaders to introduce our organization and express our intentions in working with their students.

In doing so, we should begin with prayer, and a great deal of sensitivity when meeting for the first time with any pastor or church leader. Communicating with an attitude of humility and service will go a long way towards opening doors to potential KVs within the church and building relationships of trust with pastors.

Naturally, it's important that from the very beginning we seek to build an open relationship of trust and clear communication with church leaders. An initial meeting with a pastor or church leader involves sharing the ***vision of students leading spiritual movements of evangelism and discipleship on the local campus.***

Sharing our vision and mission as well as asking questions about the vision and mission that God has called them to, is very important. We do this in order to determine if we share the same vision and core DNA. Churches with whom we share the same vision are far more likely to encourage their students to be involved with Cru.

For this reason we need to clearly communicate what we are asking of them (what we are asking students to commit to) and what it means for their students to be involved in movement building.

Consider briefly how you might present your vision so you speak the 'language' of pastors' rather than of students.

Beyond this it might also be helpful to share some general ways that students who are growing as leaders of movements of evangelism and discipleship could *bless the local church.*

Take a few minutes and think through some of the ways the local church would be blessed by students that are involved with building movements at the local university.

Along with meeting face to face, having a brochure or some literature that you can leave with them can be helpful. Sharing stories of how God has used students to grow His kingdom can be very encouraging as well.