

**Acts 11:19–30**  
**The Local Church**

**1. The Local Church: Establishing a Local Church 19–21**

- a. The church in Antioch was started by regular, everyday disciples.
- b. The church spread as part of the natural disbursement of these everyday disciples.
- c. The disciples willingly followed the Spirit's leading and focused on those God had prepared to receive the gospel.

The local church in Antioch was started by everyday disciples who, upon entering a new territory, followed the Spirit's leading to reach those whom God had prepared to respond to the gospel.

Local churches get established and grow as everyday disciples, living out their everyday lives, bring the gospel to new places and follow the Spirit's leading to bring the gospel to prepared people.

**Questions:**

Who are the everyday disciples of Elliott Heights?

Who, in your life, might God be preparing to receive the gospel?

**2. The Local Church: Support for the Local Church 22–26**

- a. Recognizing the new and unique nature of the church in Antioch, the Jerusalem leaders sent Barnabas to support and encourage the new church.
- b. Barnabas' primary qualifications for this ministry role were his character, and faith along with his dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- c. Barnabas knew Paul to be a Spirit empowered preacher whom God had called to preach Jesus to the Gentiles.

Recognizing the new and unique nature of the church in Antioch, the Jerusalem leaders sent Barnabas, a uniquely qualified leader, who also recruited Paul, a uniquely called and gifted leader, to support and encourage the new church.

Our regional (FEB Central) and national (The Fellowship) bodies exist to help us find unique solutions to our unique setting; including, but not limited to helping us identify uniquely called, qualified and gifted leaders for ministry.

**Questions:**

Every church situation is unique. How would you describe the unique setting of Elliott Heights?

What unique resources might we need for our unique setting/situation?

**3. The Local Church: Support for Each Other 27–30**

Hearing of impending hardship, the disciples in Antioch used their existing resources to assist the churches in Judea.

When we hear of other churches in need, God calls us to use our existing resources to offer support and assistance.

**Questions:**

What unique resources do we have as a church that can be used to support other churches?

What unique resources do you have that can be used to support other disciples/churches?

**The Local Church**

The church in Antioch began as the Holy Spirit worked through everyday disciples to reach Gentiles while their connection to the greater church body allowed for ongoing mutual support.

Elliott Heights will continue to grow as everyday disciples rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us to those God is preparing for the gospel and as we maintain a healthy connection to the greater church body that provides mutual support.