RCCG CHRIST THE LORD PARISH, LEKKI

Networking Through Church Contacts

Building Relationships, Trust and Mutual Support

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Outline

1. Introduction and definition
2. What makes networking work
3. Trust: character and competence
4. The church as an enabler for networking
5. Getting networking right and wrong in the church
6. Making respectful requests
7. Action steps to take
8. Our commitment and discussion

Introduction: What Is Networking?

Networking means building and maintaining relationships through which we exchange knowledge, opportunities and support.

ILLUSTRATIVE SITUATION

Two members have attended the same church for five years but rarely speak. One asks the other for a job.

How much do they really know about each other?



AI-generated illustration

Shared attendance creates familiarity. Relationships still need to grow.

What Makes Networking Work?

Philippians 2:3–4

Genuine interest in other people’s concerns.

Consistent contact beyond moments of need.

Willingness to contribute within our capacity.

Respect for people’s time, privacy and boundaries.

Would I still care if I needed nothing from this person?

Trust: Character and Competence
A Critical Success Factor for Networking

Luke 16:10 / Exodus 35:30–35

Trust capital: confidence built through experience of our character and ability.

CHARACTER
Can I rely on your word and discretion?

COMPETENCE
What shows you can deliver this work?



AI-generated illustration

A faithful worker asks for a building referral.
What evidence of ability would you need?

The Church as an Enabler for Networking

1 Corinthians 12:12–26 / Acts 2:42–47

Shared faith gives us common ground.

Regular fellowship helps us know people.

Serving together reveals gifts and dependable conduct.

Different abilities enrich mutual support.



AI-generated illustration

Worship, discipleship, fellowship and service remain central.

Networking in the Church: Right and Wrong

Romans 12:10, 15 / James 2:1–4 / Proverbs 11:13

Getting it right	Getting it wrong
Taking genuine interest in people’s lives	Appearing only when we need a favour
Building friendships across the congregation	Focusing mainly on wealthy or influential members
Asking respectfully and allowing freedom to decline	Treating membership as entitlement or applying pressure
Preparing well and delivering responsibly	Expecting a referral to replace competence
Keeping confidences, showing gratitude and staying in touch	Gossiping or disappearing after receiving help

A Request That Respects the Relationship

Vague message	Specific message
“Sir, please help me find something.”	“I am seeking an accounting role. I have updated my CV and started applying. May I send you my one-page CV for advice?”

Which request is easier to respond to, and why?

A referral offers consideration. Professional standards still apply.
Respect a “no” and follow up courteously.

Those receiving requests: respond kindly and offer realistic guidance.

Action Steps to Take

Romans 12:10 / Luke 16:10

Get to know someone outside our usual circle.

Reconnect with someone without making a request.

Offer one useful act of support.

Honour an outstanding commitment.

Prepare properly for the help we need to request.

Our Commitment and Discussion

**Let us become people who care sincerely,
keep our word and handle opportunities responsibly.**

Am I becoming someone others can trust?

Q&A AND CONTRIBUTIONS / 5 MINUTES

**What makes you comfortable recommending someone,
and what makes you hesitate?**