



When Prayer Became a Formation Pathway EMPOWERED LIFE CHURCH WITH ANYONE PRAY

In Scarborough, Ontario, Empowered Life Church has long carried a deep desire to see prayer move from something practiced by a few, to something embodied by many.

Leaders sensed that their congregation was ready for more, not just more prayer requests, but deeper formation. They were asking quiet but weighty questions: How do we help people grow in confidence when they pray? How do we disciple leaders who can pastor hearts in real time? And how do we expand our reach without stretching our volunteers thin or losing the heart of who we are as a local church?

In early 2024, as they discerned next steps for their prayer ministry, Empowered Life Church chose to pilot the Anyone Pray Subscription Program, not as a replacement for what God was already doing, but as a way to steward and strengthen it.

What followed surprised them.

THE DISCERNMENT

Like many churches, Empowered Life approached the decision thoughtfully. Leaders wanted to ensure that any new initiative would serve the church's calling, not fragment it.

Their discernment centered on a few key concerns:

- Would this deepen prayer, or distract from local ministry?
- Would volunteers feel pulled in too many directions?
- Could pastoral care and spiritual formation remain central?

Rather than rushing forward, the church chose to launch the program within its existing leadership structure, prayerfully commissioning volunteers and walking closely with them as the ministry took shape.

THE LAUNCH: PRAYER SENT, NOT SEPARATED

In March 2024, Empowered Life Church officially launched Anyone Pray with a small, carefully selected group of 13 volunteer Prayer Partners.

These volunteers were not positioned as an independent ministry. They were sent out from the church, carrying its heart, values, and pastoral covering. Each Prayer Partner consistently identified themselves as serving on behalf of Empowered Life Church, reinforcing unity between the prayer line and the life of the congregation.

WHAT BEGAN TO CHANGE

Within months, subtle but meaningful shifts became visible, not just in metrics, but in people.

A DEEPER KIND OF ENGAGEMENT

Rather than drawing volunteers away from church life, engagement remained strong across existing ministries.

- No significant volunteer loss was observed
- Prayer Partners continued faithfully in their prior roles
- Several volunteers took on additional areas of service over time

Prayer became a place of renewal, not depletion, reinforcing volunteers' sense of calling rather than competing with it.

FORMATION THROUGH REAL MINISTRY MOMENTS

As Prayer Partners answered live calls from people experiencing crisis, loneliness, and spiritual searching, growth happened naturally.

Volunteers described:

- increased confidence praying aloud with others
- greater sensitivity and discernment
- a deeper reliance on the Holy Spirit

Over time, leadership noticed that several Prayer Partners were stepping into altar ministry and intercessory leadership roles within the church.

The prayer line became an unexpected discipleship environment, shaping spiritually mature, ministry-ready leaders.

EXTENDING THE CHURCH'S REACH

Through the Anyone Pray platform, Empowered Life Church's volunteers responded to thousands of live prayer calls, reaching far beyond Sunday gatherings.

Regular reporting helped leadership stay connected to what volunteers were encountering, while maintaining a sense of shared mission. The church's heart for care and prayer was no longer limited by geography or service times.

SHEPHERDED, NOT SILOED

One of the most encouraging outcomes was how naturally the program aligned with the church's pastoral rhythm.

Safeguards were relational as much as structural:

- volunteers were commissioned and supported by church leadership
- Prayer Partners remained connected to pastoral care and guidance
- no parallel ministry formed outside the life of the church

Rather than diminishing leadership authority, trust deepened. Volunteers felt seen, supported, and sent.

INTERNAL FRUIT

As participation continued, leadership observed broader spiritual fruit within the congregation:

- a strengthened prayer culture
- a clearer leadership pipeline
- increased ownership of the church's mission

Volunteers expressed a growing sense of purpose, while leaders noted greater spiritual depth and reliability among those involved.

MONITORING HEALTH ALONG THE WAY

From the outset, leadership paid close attention to volunteer health, workload, and spiritual wellbeing.

Burnout was actively monitored and did not emerge as a concern. Engagement remained steady, and alignment with leadership and doctrine stayed strong throughout the pilot period.

KEY INDICATORS (EMPOWERED LIFE CHURCH)

- 13 commissioned Prayer Partner volunteers
- Thousands of prayer calls answered
- Strong retention and engagement across existing ministries
- Increased leadership participation
- No observed disruption to church life

LOOKING AHEAD

Empowered Life Church's experience shows that when prayer is stewarded wisely, it can become more than a response, it can become a formation pathway.

The Anyone Pray Subscription Program did not create something new out of thin air. It served what God was already cultivating: a heart for prayer, a hunger for growth, and a leadership team committed to shepherding people well.

For churches longing to see deeper spiritual fruit while remaining rooted in local leadership and care, Empowered Life Church offers a hopeful and grounded testimony.

