

## **Building Your Business at Hillside Church**

There are many in our church community who are self-employed or have a personal/home business they are involved in. That would include anything from selling household products to providing real estate services. We're talking about any product or service that you might offer to others and then profit directly (or close to it) from its sale/use as well as any product parties you might host.

We know you are hard-working and are trusting God's provision as you put in a good day's work. We want to affirm that as well as support one another whenever we can.

However, by nature, many of these personal businesses are grown and maintained by relational networking. This is not a problem if everyone involved is comfortable with the concept. But we can tell you from our ministry experience and from observing our church community that not everyone is. People (even existing friends) often feel uncomfortable or pressured by a solicitation or invitation. These situations can be awkward and can create questions about the motivations of a relationship.

**In an effort to keep our community uncomplicated, we are asking everyone at Hillside to not pursue other Hillsideers as customers or networking participants of your personal businesses. Instead, please post your business information on our business directory and let others approach you.**

This does not mean that you should never conduct business with one another. If someone in our church community approaches you for a service or product you offer, by all means provide them with great service and a fair deal! (But, of course, conducting business of any kind when we gather on Sunday mornings is distracting).

We are asking you to be discerning and to err on the side of being passive as you provide products or services to others in our church community. We hope that everyone will place a greater value on keeping relationships healthy over growing a personal business, on eternal things over material things.

We know this can be a sensitive topic and we want to make clear that we are not trying to control the lives of those at Hillside. Rather, as shepherds of this church we are trying to protect our community and provide a place where Christ-centered relationships can flourish.

We trust that you understand our reasoning, but if you have any questions or concerns, or would like to discuss what the Bible says about this topic, please contact the elders.

Your friends and servants,

Josh, Steve, Mike, and Matt  
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