

## **City Coast Church in Fairfield County, Connecticut**



From early ages, both Charlie and Leslie Welke have had hearts for helping people to know and follow Jesus. For the past several years, Charlie served at Eastview Christian Church on the pastoral staff team, until Eastview's leadership commissioned him and Leslie to lead a new church. As the Welkes began researching and discerning with Orchard Group and others, each conversation gradually led them to the decision to plant a new church in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Fairfield County is the most densely populated county in Connecticut — a crossroads between New York City and New England. Of the 20 million people who call the metro region home, one million live in Fairfield County, and it's the fastest-growing county in the state. It is also the most diverse county in Connecticut with some of the most substantial economic disparities. And critically, Gallup polling has placed the New England states as the least-religious in the U.S., with fewer people attending churches or claiming faith tradition than anywhere in the nation.

Charlie and Leslie believe God has called their family to build a church that reaches all types of people in Fairfield County. They hope to see common grace for the common good bring Christ glory. They believe that God has set eternity in the hearts of humanity, and it is their desire to see the spiritually hungry and curious grow in Christ. They moved to Connecticut in the summer of 2021, with plans to launch this new church in the Fall of 2022.



Many of you have been praying for the church that will be launched in Fairfield County, Connecticut this fall. City Coast Church, as it will be called, held their first launch team gathering recently.

**SIXTY-EIGHT** people participated!

Lead Church Planter Charlie Welke described God's hand through one story, *"I met Keith through a providential interaction in southern Indiana in May 2021. Someone from the church there told me I needed to connect with Keith when I moved to Connecticut. Keith and I became*

*fast friends when we moved here because his family was part of starting a church here twenty years ago. Keith and his wife Jill brought two other households of people to City Coast Church's event. One of those was another family who also participated in starting a church twenty years ago. It was a beautiful picture of how God continues to stir the hearts of people in New England to plant churches."*

Thanks so much for your prayers and support. Please pray for God to open doors for City Coast Church.

*Tanner Green*

**Check out more to pray about at:**  
<https://orchardgroup.org/projects/fairfield-county>