

PRESS KIT

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COMMUNIO

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**Communio** is a nonprofit ministry that trains and equips churches to share the Gospel through the renewal of healthy relationships, marriages and the family.

Under the leadership of founder and president J.P. De Gance, Communio has commissioned multiple academic surveys seeking to understand the hidden drivers behind the rapid decline of Christianity in America. Data gathered from the Communio Nationwide Study on Faith and Relationships points to the collapse in marriage and the resulting decline in resident fatherhood as the best explanation.

A deep look into how Evangelical, Catholic and Mainline churches are allocating their ministry time and resources reveals that marriage is the most urgent ministry gap for American churches. Closing it is the largest cultural health opportunity.

To positively impact marriages and families in congregations and their surrounding communities, Communio partners with churches across all Christian faith traditions to build out Data-Informed, Full-Circle Relationship Ministries®. Every partnership begins with a comprehensive diagnostic of the relationship health quality of the church – and the community. That data informs the development of a ministry strategy.

Communio is more than just another church program. Rather, the ministry equips each church with a proven strategic framework, 21st-century tools of predictive analytics and microtargeting that puts its members and neighbors onto a growth journey toward healthier and holier relationships. For example, Communio works with each partnering church to hone its outreach into the community using door-to-door contact, direct-mail, digital-advertising, and social-media tactics to draw people into personal relationship with the local church and ultimately into personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

To date, Communio has supported more than 180 Protestant and Catholic churches to become community hubs, fostering healthy relationships among single and married people across America.

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In 2023, The Heritage Foundation named Communio a recipient of the Heritage Innovation Prize. The award is granted annually to organizations that demonstrate outstanding leadership and creativity in advancing principles that strengthen American society. Communio was selected for its ground-breaking collaboration with Hampton University, a historically black university, and its creation of data-informed support for churches to build healthy marriages and families.



How Communio Serves



COMMUNIO

## VIDEO TESTIMONIALS



Fellowship of the Parks, Ft. Worth, TX



Wellspring Church, Englewood, CO



## **J.P. De Gance, Founder and President**

J.P. De Gance is the founder and president of Communio and the co-author of “Endgame: The Church’s Strategic Move to Save Faith and Family in America.”

Communio is a ministry originally incubated as the Culture of Freedom Initiative at The Philanthropy Roundtable where De Gance served as the organization’s executive vice president.

The Initiative raised and invested \$20 million over three years in three different states seeking to identify the most effective strategies to boost marital health, family stability and church engagement. From 2016 to 2018, the experimental initiative worked with an ecumenical network of churches and drove down the divorce rate by 24 percent in Jacksonville, FL.

Today, Communio serves churches across the United States helping them evangelize by applying the learnings from their successful intervention in Jacksonville.

A husband and father, De Gance lives in Virginia with his wife and eight children.



Family formation and stability rates in the U.S. remain in steep decline:

- More than one in four Americans hold no religious affiliation. That number climbs to four in 10 among Millennials.
- Millennials from married homes are 78% more likely to attend church than peers from unmarried homes.
- 40% of all births in the United States occur outside of marriage.
- Half of children born in the U.S. reach their 17th birthday without a married mom and dad in the home.

Communio commissioned a Barna Survey to understand where Evangelical, Catholic, and Mainline churches are allocating their ministry time and resources. The data revealed the following:

- 72% of American churches lack a substantive marriage ministry.
- 74% of American churches have no ministry for newlyweds helping them through their first critical years of marriage.
- 93% of American churches do not offer any ministries for singles. This is a huge opportunity area to encourage healthy habits around dating or finding the right spouse for marriage.
- A large majority of churches report spending zero percent of their ministry dollars on marriage and relationship ministries.

- Americans — especially younger Americans — are falling away from faith at alarming rates. What is the primary factor behind this rapid exodus from religion?
- Fewer Americans are regular church goers. What's fueling this decline?
- Communio conducted a nationwide study on faith and relationships to address gaps in understanding about why Christianity is declining in America. What did your study reveal?
- What is the most urgent ministry gap within the Church today?
- What is the most effective way for parents to pass their faith onto their children?
- How is Communio positively impacting marriages and families in congregations and communities?
- What is the connection between strong marriages and evangelism?
- What does a Data-Informed, Full-Circle Relationship Ministry look like and why is it an effective strategy?
- Can you summarize one or two of Communio's case studies?
- What was the catalyst to founding Communio?
- What do social science studies reveal about strong marriages and happiness?