

# **HolyWork Proposal**

## **HolyWork: A Community App for Church Volunteers and Worship Organization**

**Course:** CSIS 3375 – UX Design in Web & Mobile App

**Professor:** Padmapriya Arasanipalai Kandhadai

**Section:** 1

### **Team Members:**

- Ryan Wang (Student ID: 300390359)

### **Introduction**

**HolyWork** is a mobile application designed to connect and streamline volunteer scheduling and worship service organization across a network of similar churches, such as Christine Church and affiliated or like-minded congregations (e.g., other Protestant or community-focused churches in the region). The app creates an intuitive platform where church organizers from multiple churches can plan weekly service content, while volunteers can indicate availability, receive assignments, and even support services in different churches to foster inter-congregational collaboration.

What makes HolyWork novel is the integration of cross-church volunteer management (across different ministry teams and locations) and worship program design in one unified app, something that current church-related apps often limit to single congregations. For the user, the transformative experience is reduced administrative burden, enhanced communication, broader community involvement, and opportunities for inter-church support. Volunteers can browse and sign up for roles in nearby churches, promoting a sense of shared mission. Motto: "Serving Together, Flowing in Grace Across Communities."

To make the app popular among young people (ages 18-35), we incorporate modern, engaging features inspired by social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok:

- Gamification elements, such as badges, points, and leaderboards for consistent volunteering (e.g., "Volunteer of the Month" with rewards like shoutouts or small church perks).
- Social sharing: Users can share their service experiences via in-app stories or posts, including photos from events, with filters and quick-edit tools.
- Interactive polls and challenges: Quick votes on service themes or fun challenges like "Prayer Chain" where young users commit to daily prayers and track streaks.

- Modern UI/UX: Sleek, minimalist design with dark mode, customizable themes, and short-form video tutorials for onboarding.
- Integration with popular apps: Easy login via Google/Apple, and notifications styled like social media alerts to encourage frequent engagement.
- Youth-focused content: Dedicated sections for young adult events, like Bible study meetups or service-themed memes, to build a vibrant online community.
- HolyWork aims to reduce up to 50% of weekly volunteer coordination time by automating scheduling and centralizing communications.

These elements aim to appeal to tech-savvy young users by blending faith-based activities with social networking, increasing retention through fun and relational interactions.

## Background Research

App Name	Focus	Limitations Compared to HolyWork
Planning Center	Scheduling	Lacks cross-church collaboration
Church Center	Event management	No volunteer availability tracking
Subsplash	Engagement tools	Single-church focus only

## Inspirations:

- Google Calendar – for its simplicity in scheduling.
- Slack – for role-based communication.
- Trello – for visual task assignments.
- Meetup.com – for cross-group event discovery and participation, inspiring the multi-church volunteer support.
- Prayer apps like Echo or Pray.com – for community prayer sharing, which we've expanded to include posting prayers for others (e.g., during services or for baptized individuals).

## PACT Framework

### People:

- Organizers (pastors, worship coordinators from multiple churches)

- Volunteers across different teams and churches:
  - Set-up Team (arrive early to prepare the sanctuary)
  - Clean-up Team (stay after church to put away equipment and supplies)
  - Music Team (join the band and lead worship)
  - Hospitality Team (prepare coffee/tea and treats to encourage fellowship)
  - Sanctuary Guild (care for and prepare the sanctuary for liturgical and sacramental worship)
  - Kids Church Team (co-teach or assist with art/activities for ages 1–12)
- Attendees (receive schedules, event info from their home church or affiliated ones)
- Cross-church participants: Volunteers can view and sign up for opportunities in nearby similar churches, promoting resource sharing (e.g., a musician from Church A helping at Church B).

These PACT elements informed our design priorities—simplicity for organizers, interactivity for volunteers, and inclusivity for attendees across generations.

**Activities:** Volunteer sign-up (including cross-church options), scheduling, worship content planning, role assignment, notifications, and community prayer posting (e.g., users can post prayers for service needs, baptized persons, or personal requests, with options for anonymous sharing and community responses like "Amen" reactions).

**Context:** Weekly church services, special liturgical events, community gatherings, and inter-church collaborations (e.g., joint holiday services or outreach programs). The app supports a network of similar churches to build a larger community ecosystem.

**Technology:** Mobile app (Android), backend database (cloud-based with multi-tenant support for different churches), role-based access control, geolocation for discovering nearby church opportunities, and social features for prayer sharing.

## Value Proposition

HolyWork reduces friction in church service preparation by combining scheduling, role management, program planning, and community prayer features into a unified, accessible platform that spans multiple similar churches. Its novelty lies in tailoring general productivity principles (scheduling, task boards, availability tracking) for the church service context while enabling cross-church volunteering and social engagement. This fosters a broader sense of community, allowing volunteers to support services in different churches, which can help smaller congregations fill gaps and build regional unity. For young people, the app's social and gamified elements make faith involvement feel dynamic and connected, potentially increasing participation rates in church activities.

HolyWork transforms how faith communities coordinate and worship by integrating scheduling, volunteering, and prayer into one cross-congregational mobile platform.

### **Project Contract**

- Meetings twice a week (online or in-person).
- Communication via Microsoft Teams.
- GitHub for version control.
- Equal workload distribution; unresolved conflicts escalated to team lead.
- Add decision-making process (e.g., consensus or majority).
- Add expected response time for communication (e.g., “24-hour reply window via Teams”).
- Include signatures placeholder.

### **Preliminary Feature List**

- **Cross-Church Volunteer Availability Calendar:** Role-based sign-up (Set-up, Clean-up, Music, Hospitality, Sanctuary Guild, Kids Church) with options to browse and support services in affiliated churches. Geolocation filters show nearby opportunities, and volunteers can indicate multi-church availability.
- **Automated Scheduling with Reminders:** Assignments consider cross-church preferences, with push notifications for roles across locations.
- **Drag-and-Drop Service Agenda Builder for Organizers:** The app provides an interactive agenda builder where church organizers can construct each week’s Service Book using a drag-and-drop interface.

The Service Book has two layers:

1. Fixed (Regular) Elements – parts of the liturgy that remain the same week-to-week, such as the opening prayer, confession, and benediction.
2. Variable (Weekly) Elements – content that changes according to the liturgical calendar or service theme, such as scripture readings, sermon topics, or musical selections.

Content is categorized by type:

- Music / Songs (worship hymns, band-led pieces, choir performances)
- Bible Passages (Old and New Testament readings, responsive readings)
- Prayers (written or extemporaneous, can include call-and-response)

- Gestures / Postures (standing, sitting, kneeling, hand-raising, communion procession)

Organizers can drag and drop these items into the correct sequence, creating a timeline-style flow for the service. This provides both flexibility (easy adjustments for special events) and consistency (a foundation of familiar liturgical elements). Shared templates can be exchanged between churches for collaborative events.

- **Congregation View of Weekly Service Agenda:** Attendees can access the Service Book directly in the app, including agendas from affiliated churches if attending joint services. They receive notifications when the weekly agenda is published and can follow along in real time. The agenda is presented in time sequence, allowing members to tap into specific content (e.g., scripture text, song lyrics, prayers) for active participation during worship.
- **Community Prayer Wall:** A core community feature where users can post prayers for others, such as intercessory prayers during services, blessings for baptized persons, or personal requests (e.g., "Pray for John's baptism this Sunday" or "Healing for our community outreach event"). To emphasize community building:
  - **Prayer Categories and Tagging:** Users can categorize posts (e.g., Healing, Thanksgiving, Intercession, Praise, Confession) and add tags for specific contexts like #Baptism, #ServicePrayer, #CrossChurchRequest, making it easier to search and filter prayers across churches.
  - **Multimedia Support:** Posts can include text, images (e.g., inspirational photos), or audio recordings for voice prayers.
  - **Interactive Engagements:** Community members can respond with simple reactions (e.g., for "Praying") or comments to show support and encouragement.
  - **Prayer Chains and Collaborations:** Users can start or join prayer chains, where prayers are shared via notifications, encouraging group praying. Cross-church chains allow participants from different congregations to collaborate on shared concerns, like regional events.
  - **Privacy and Moderation Options:** Posts can be set to public (visible across the network), church-specific, small group-only, or anonymous. Organizers have moderation tools to review, approve, or flag content, ensuring a safe, faith-aligned space.

- **Integration with Services:** Prayers can be linked to service agendas (e.g., include a Prayer Wall post in the Service Book for live use). Notifications alert users when a posted prayer is featured in a service or receives responses.
- **Search and Discovery:** A search bar to find prayers by keyword, category, or church, with sections for recent or urgent requests to boost visibility and participation.
- This feature serves as a central hub for spiritual support, extending beyond volunteer sharing to strengthen community bonds through shared faith practices.
- **Notifications & News Section:** A dedicated section for church-wide and inter-church communication, including:
  - Regular fellowship events (e.g., bi-monthly potlucks, now with cross-church invites)
  - Annual or semi-annual budget and financial reports
  - Special announcements (holiday services, community outreach programs)
  - Community discussion threads for non-prayer topics, like sharing testimonies or organizing small group meetups.
  - Push notifications ensure members stay informed of important updates, including new prayer posts, event invites, or volunteer needs from other churches.

AI Use Section

AI Tool	Version	Account Type	Specific Use	Value Added
ChatGPT	GPT-5	Free	Drafting proposal and refining concept language	Customized content to reflect inter-church collaboration
Figma AI Plugin	Starter	Free	Wireframe generation for UI/UX planning	Adjusted layout for youth-oriented engagement

Work Logs

Student Name	Date	Hours	Description of Work Done
--------------	------	-------	--------------------------

Ryan, Menghua	Oct 1, 2025	2	Discussion with Menghua about HolyWork project details and feature direction.
Menghua	Sep. 29	2	Draft proposal and questionnaire
Ryan	Oct 2, 2025	3	Completed and improved questionnaires regarding cross-generational, cross-cultural, and cross-age inclusivity for the app.
Ryan	Oct 4, 2025	4	Conducted verbal research with congregation members to explore desired app features for church events and volunteer attraction.
Menghua	Oct 5, 2025	2	Talk with 2 church members for interview schedule.
Ryan	Oct 5, 2025	5	Prepared GitHub repository, added README.md, and associated documents to establish project foundation.

## Closing and References

We thank Christine Church leadership and representatives from similar congregations for sharing real-world requirements that shaped this updated project idea, emphasizing inter-church collaboration.

### References:

- Planning Center Services, <https://planning.center>
- Church Center App, <https://churchcenter.com>
- Google Calendar, Slack, Trello (official sites)
- Meetup.com (for cross-group inspiration)
- Pray.com (for prayer community features)

**Github:** [HolyWork](#)