

The Church Planting Model for Ministry

God – The Essential Factor

In order to have a successful new church start, God must be at work initiating and directing such a process. Church planting provides an open window for us to observe Him at work. Notice some of the following ways that only He can work:

- Only God can prepare the hearts of people to do the work of the Kingdom.
- Only God can call and equip individuals for specific ministries.
- Only God can establish the timing of circumstances to coordinate such a process.
- Only God can work in the midst of a congregation, an association, and state convention to establish the desire to obey Him in carrying out the Great Commission in our Jerusalem.
- Only God can speak to the heart of a person and draw that individual to Himself.
- Only God would invite us to be “co laborers together with Him” in a task as important as the redemption of a fallen world. No one else would dare to let us be involved in something of such eternal significance. We must be dependent upon Him.

The Church Planter

The Church Planter feels lead to begin a new church with a focus on sharing the gospel with a specific people group. For example, a people group may be defined by location, income, social status, age, ethnicity, or common interests. That group will be reached with the gospel through a specific ministry, personality and worship style.

The Primary Church

The Primary Church has a burden for the needs of that specific people group or community where the new church will be established and leads the process by providing the primary financial support or valuable resources such as a building for the new ministry. God works through the church to establish new churches.

Supporting Churches

Supporting churches can help in an infinite number of ways. They may also provide financial support or they may feel lead to commit to pray for the new church and its ministry. They can supply many useful items that they no longer use such as furniture, sound equipment, hymn books, or office equipment. Supporting churches can send mission teams to work with the new church plant on specific ministry projects or bake cookies for a special outreach event. The opportunities are endless.

Missions Development Council

Once a church planter, the primary church, and supporting churches have made a commitment to the church plant, the association Missions Development Council evaluates the need for the church plant and the resources available to establish a viable church start. The council then determines if the project will be suitable for the association to support by providing additional funds, coordination and promotion for new ministry.

Association Approval

The Missions Development Council presents the project to the association for approval. If the individual churches and the association will commit to provide \$3000 per month of support for the church plant, the Baptist State Convention will provide \$1500 per month. The new church plant must agree to commit 5% of its undesignated offerings to the cooperative program, 3% to the association and 2% to other church plants. The goal is to establish healthy, mission-minded congregations that are involved in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

The State Convention also provides valuable support by screening and equipping the church planter. The process of becoming a church planter that is eligible for support includes criminal background and credit checks, personal interviews, Church Planter Training, and personality and skills assessment. The State Convention also has trained church planting consultants and experience church planters that are available to help the church planter.

Director of Missions

This church planting process can be initiated by the church planter, primary church, supporting churches, Missions Development Council, association or State Convention. The Director of Missions serves as the catalyst and coordinator throughout this process.