

*ARPC Florida Presbytery Church Extension Committee
Recruitment & Development Team*

Guidelines for Grass Roots Church Planter and Leader Development

In the days of the apostles, Jesus stated, "The fields are white for the harvest, yet the workers are few." The greatest obstacle to planting more ARP churches is that the scarcity of workers remains. God may send us ministers already gifted and prepared to plant churches. Often, God will look to our own local congregations to identify and develop future church planters. Therefore, we encourage our Presbytery's Pastors and Elders to identify rising leaders in our churches across all stages and places of life to develop and deploy them as future church planters.

Process for Grass Roots Church Planter and Leaders Development and Deploying

1. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to give workers
2. Once each year, the church session will examine the church roll and discuss who could be a future church planter.
3. See if you can identify one candidate per year from the fishing pools below to participate in Development.

Desirable Attributes in a Future Church Planter

1. Character:
 - Heart for God, for His church, and for the lost
 - Faithful
 - Available
 - Teachable
2. Competency:
 - Interest in and ability to start new things
 - Apt to Teach
4. Conviction:
 - Committed to Confessional Reformed Theology and Ordinary Means of Grace Ministry
 - Desiring to examine whether he has a call to ministry and church planting

Fishing Pools:

- Youth of the Church, grades 6-12
- Twenty and thirty-somethings, college and men early in career
- Forties and fifties-having established a career and raised a family, God may be calling some to consider ministry and church planting for the first time, and with insight from wisdom gained through the years
- Officers- elders and deacons have ministry experience and subscribe to our confessional standards
- Other non-ordained leaders: youth directors, ministry coordinators, volunteer leaders, Sunday school teachers, etc.
- Retired leaders: God may be calling some of our best leaders to plant a new church

Program:

- Read *Church Planting by the Book* by Elbert Smith
- Oversee them in the development of an outreach ministry assignment
 - o Start and lead a small group/reproducing small group and coach them through it
 - o Start a Christianity Explored Outreach Study (or similar study)
- Meet regularly with a mentor (minister/elder) who will coach him
- Teach/Demonstrate/Observe/Evaluate/Encourage the future leader
- Notify the Florida Presbytery Church Extension Committee of all candidates in the Florida Church Planter Development program; CE R&D will maintain a list of possible future church planters to shepherd them in next steps toward deployment.