



# Church Planting: Your Next Step

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ARPC Synod-ONA Breakfast



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# Why Plant Churches?

**The Great Commission requires the planting of local churches.**

Matthew 28:18-20 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



## The Great Commission carries the three marks of the church

The marks by which the true Church is known are these:

If the pure doctrine of the gospel is preached therein;

if it maintains the pure administration of the sacraments as instituted by Christ;

if church discipline is exercised in punishing sin.


(Belgic Confession, Article 29)

- Preaching the Word: is the ongoing teaching ministry of a local church: “teaching them to obey everything.”
- Sacraments: requires a local church to rightly administer them: “baptizing them.”
- Government: requires church authority and discipline: “All authority.... make disciples.”



THE APOSTLES UNDERSTOOD WHAT JESUS MEANT,  
SO THEY WENT OUT PLANTING CHURCHES

“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” – Acts 14:21-23



Fulfilling the Great Commission requires local churches, and therefore, new churches, wherever there are none or too few!

**“The single most effective evangelistic strategy under heaven is the planting of new churches.”**

Dr. C. Peter Wagner, of the Fuller Theological School of World Mission

# In addition to the biblical imperative:

## THE DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE

- World
  - 2023: 8 billion people
  - 2040: 9.2 billion people
  - 1.2 billion new people!
- USA
  - 2023: 334 million people
  - 2040: 366 million
  - 32 million new people!

## THE ECCLESIASTICAL IMPERATIVE

- Churches close, they have a limited life span.
- There are about 400,000 churches in the US
- In 2019 3000 churches started
- In 2019 4500 churches closed
- We are losing ground in the USA!

## THE MISSIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

- Amsterdam 2000 Strategy Number 1 to reach the world for Christ:
- “To work toward the planting of churches within every remaining people group as we seek to evangelize and make disciples.”

# How to develop a church planting in your church

## 1. Develop a biblical vision for church planting in your church.

- **Decide as a session how you will go about planting churches: daughter, partnership, adopt, etc.**
- **Explain the biblical imperative for your people, along with other imperatives.**
- **Communicate to the church the vision, through: preaching, teaching, congregational meeting, church dinner, website, etc.**





## 2. Structure for Church Planting



# How to plant a daughter church

1. Decide that you want to plant a daughter church! Tell the church!
2. Appoint a church planting team to help lead the process, under the session.
3. Write a plan for the church plant:
  - a. Select one or more possible locations for the plant.
  - b. Set a timeframe for when it would start, 12 to 18 months out.
  - c. Set a budget for the plant.
  - d. Set policies and procedures for the plant.
4. Fund a budget for church planting.
5. Select a church planter.
6. Bring the church planter on staff for one year, or so.
7. Have the church planter teach a Sunday School class to recruit members to the plant and form them into a core team.
8. Launch the plant!



# Ways to be involved in church planting

## 1. **PLANT** a daughter church

- Initiated by your church
- In conjunction with presbytery

## 2. **PARTNER** with other churches

- Two or more churches plant a church
- Team approach
- Utilize the strengths of each church

## 3. **ADOPT** an existing mission church

- Adopt an existing core group or mission church
- One or more churches come alongside to support and encourage the mission as it develops

## 4. **SUPPORT** with resources and ministry

- Support through consistent prayer
- Give toward funding presbytery church planting, a specific church plant, or ONA
- Arrange mission trips to help a church plant with a specific outreach or ministry
- Commit to have people serve a church plant for a period of time
- Provide tangible encouragement to a church planter and his family



# What is your next step in church planting?

Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. John 4:35

**To pray with your elders?**

**To consider where the plant might be?**

**To raise up a church planter from your midst?**

**To contact ONA or your presbytery Church Extension Committee?**

**To write a plan or vision for your church to plant?**

**Will you plant a daughter, partner to plant, adopt a plant, or support a plant?**



# summary

God's Word calls us to plant churches...

Christians want us to plant churches...

Lost people need us to plant churches...

The ARPC is equipped to plant churches...

Let us plant new churches...together!



The background features a light grey base with abstract shapes in muted colors: a large reddish-brown shape on the left, a large olive green shape on the right, and a white line-art branch with leaves in the upper left. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

thank you

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