



REACHING OUT THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING



northwest conference
developing leaders. thriving churches.

3106 47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406 •
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A close-up, profile view of a man's face, looking towards the right. The image is partially obscured by text on the right side. The background is a solid, warm brown color.

“Church Planting
is the nearest thing
to a **guaranteed**
method of
evangelism
known to man.”

— Lyle Schaller

What is Church Planting?

Church planting is the Biblical pattern for reaching more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. After the resurrection, Jesus empowered the church to “go and make disciples” ... and they went out and began planting churches all around the known world. The story continues today, and we are called to continue

what the disciples started. The most effective way to do this is through churches reproducing themselves in the form of new churches. Through these churches we will reach every neighborhood, ethnic group, and age group in the cities and towns in which we live.

Why We Plant New Churches

- Jesus told us to.
 - Lost people matter to God.
 - There is no more effective way to reach people for Christ.
 - The U.S. unchurched population is the largest mission field in the English-speaking world and the third largest globally.
 - Nationally, roughly 3,500 churches close each year in the U.S. Between 1994 and 2004, established churches experienced a serious decline in attendance, while population growth during that period was 12.2%.
 - Estimates show only 2 out of 10 Americans attend church on any given Sunday.
 - There are currently only enough church plants to keep up with 1/8 of the U.S. population growth.
- New churches effectively reach people for Christ.
 1. A church that is 3 years old or less adds 1 new convert per member per year.
 2. A church that is 7 years old adds 1 new convert per 7 members per year.
 3. A church that is 50 years old will add only 1 new convert per 85 members per year.
 - Nearly 50% of our new churches are among populations of color or are intentionally multi-ethnic from the start.
 - Established churches that help plant a new church grow 3 times faster than churches who do not plant, due to an infusion of missional energy.

How We Plant New Churches

1. Church planting in the Evangelical Covenant Church is a 3-way partnership consisting of a parenting church (or a group of partnering churches), the Northwest Conference, and the Evangelical Covenant Church.
2. Parenting or partnering churches provide the “seed” to begin a new church. These churches provide prayer, people, a portion of the financial support, and short-term hands-on ministry support (greeting, worship help, children’s ministry, etc.).
3. The Northwest Conference assists your church by:
 - Providing the R&D ... Recruitment and Development of a planting pastor.
 - Offering scaled financial support for the first 3 years of the new church.
 - Extending ongoing support for the new church and pastor.
 - The NW Conference also A.C.T.S. to assist church planting as we: Assess, Coach, Train, and Support each new church that is planted.
4. The Evangelical Covenant Church provides 1/3 of the funding, assists with the assessment of new pastors, and provides ongoing training opportunities for the church planting pastor.
5. The Church Planter and the new developing church then face the challenge of reaching out, making disciples, and transforming their community. During this time the help provided by your church is critical in providing support on many levels.

Church planting in the Evangelical Covenant Church is a **3-way partnership**

How Your Church Can Get Involved

1. Your church can decide to be a **Parenting Church**. As a parenting church, your church agrees to provide a portion of the needed funding for the first 3 years. Many churches designate a portion of their annual mission giving to church planting.
2. If you attend a smaller church, your church can commit to join a **Partnering Church Network** where 4-8 churches join together to plant a church (www.missiontoplant.org), sharing the costs and the commitment. This puts church planting within the reach of every Covenant church in the Northwest Conference. “Every Church a Planting Church.”
3. Your church can commit to send some people out to help in the planting of a new church.
4. During this time your church can commit to pray for the new church you have helped to birth.
5. Your church can commit a tithe of the money raised during a capital campaign for church planting in the Northwest Conference.

“Living as Christ desires
but simultaneously playing it safe
is impossible.”

Faith presumes risk.
What risks are
you taking?”
—Jean Fleming

How You Can Personally Get Involved

1. PRAY: You can commit to pray for the church planting pastors and new churches within the Northwest Conference.
2. DECIDE: Encourage your church leadership to step out in faith and get involved in reaching the lost through parenting or partnering to plant a new church.
3. GATHER: You can begin to form a launch team of people who are willing to go out to plant in a nearby community or neighborhood.
4. HELP: If presented with an opportunity, commit to assist in a new church plant in whatever way(s) you can.
5. COMMIT: Become a Northwest Conference Church Planting Partner, or CPP. By filling out a commitment card you agree to support through prayer, and/or with ongoing financial support, the development of new churches in the Northwest Conference.

“Every church can, and should, be a strategic player
in the fulfillment of the Great Commission through starting
and multiplying new congregations.”

— Robert Logan

The Positive Impact of Church Planting

- In the past 5 years 10 new churches have been planted in the Northwest Conference. These churches host more than 2,000 new attendees in worship each week and are home to hundreds of new believers.
- We have many new potential plants in the works with the ultimate goal of seeing 5-10 new churches started each year.
- These new churches are reaching neighborhoods and people groups we would find it difficult to reach any other way.
- Our new churches add strength, health and greater diversity to our growing family in the Northwest Conference.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact:

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for the NWC

3106 47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
1 (800) 756-6692 • (612)-721-4893

Email: mike@nwc-cov.org

Or

Fill out a CPP (Church Planting Partners) Form and
drop it in the mail.

“The best time to plant an oak tree
was 20 years ago. The next best time
is NOW!” — Author unknown

At one time each one of our churches was planted by mission-minded individuals who understood the urgency to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to every neighborhood and community.

Jesus told us to go and make disciples. Our desire is to help each one of our churches reach their "Judea and Samaria" by assisting every Evangelical Covenant congregation in the planting of at least one new church.



**The Northwest Conference
of the Evangelical Covenant Church**
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