

# REACHING OUT *Through*

## CHURCH PLANTING



northwest conference  
developing leaders. thriving churches.

[NORTHWESTCONFERENCE.ORG](http://NORTHWESTCONFERENCE.ORG)



Every church was at some point a church plant ... including your own. Every church shares one thing in common ... a beginning.



Church Planting is a Biblical pattern for mission. Your church is part of a rich history. It was started at one point in time. And because it was, each of you has been touched. So have untold others through the years. Now we have the opportunity to do for others what others first did for us. We can take the same spirit that founded our existing congregations and establish other congregations committed to living out the hope of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

## WHY WE PLANT NEW CHURCHES

- ▶ **Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples**, and the starting of new churches is the New Testament pattern for fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).
- ▶ **Lost people matter to God.** It is one of the most effective ways 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.
- ▶ Estimates show only **2 out of 10 Americans attend church** on any given Sunday.
- ▶ **Church planting breaks down cultural and racial barriers.** Nearly 50% of our new churches are among populations of color or are intentionally multi-ethnic from the start.

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

— Lyle Schaller







The heritage of the past  
is the seed that brings forth the  
harvest of the future.

— inscription at the entrance of The National Archives

## ESSENTIALLY, CHURCH PLANTING IS SIMPLY A NEARBY MISSION PROJECT

In Acts 1:8, Jesus gives the map of mission when He says, “You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

On the mission map, Jerusalem is equivalent to where we live. It is, and remains, the primary focus of our energies.

Then, together with over 800 other Covenant churches, we have developed an “ends of the earth” world mission enterprise

twice as large as the Covenant in North America. So, we are strong here and far away.

Church Planting helps us fill in the map of mission by reaching into neighboring communities (our Judea) and cross-cultural contexts (our Samaria).

Is planting a new church something we can do?

Yes, Church Planting is very achievable, especially since you will be partners with other churches in your area, plus the Northwest Conference and the Evangelical Covenant Church. In fact, this missional focus often provides an additional source of vitality for many existing churches. Remember, you can’t out-give God.

## Effectiveness of Church Planting

(Conversions per 100 attendees\*)

All Evangelical Churches

3

All Covenant Churches

7

New Covenant Churches

12

\* Figures from Interest Ministries (a research group) and the Annual Survey of Covenant Churches

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## PARENTING AND PARTNERING TO START NEW CHURCHES

► The **NWC** and the **ECC** provide **Assessment, Coaching, Training and Support** to each new church that is planted.

► **Church Planting** in the Covenant is a **3-way partnership** consisting of the Northwest Conference, the Evangelical Covenant Church, and a parenting church (or a group of partnering churches).

► **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, children’s ministry, etc.).

► 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 given by your church is critical in providing support on many levels.



Church Planting in the Northwest Conference is a  
**3-way partnership**





# THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF CHURCH PLANTING

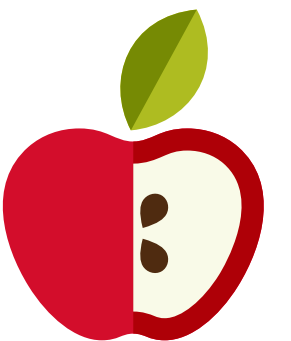
- ▶ NWC churches started since 2000 are home to **thousands of attendees and hundreds of new believers.**
- ▶ We have many new potential plants in the works with the ultimate goal of seeing **50 new churches started by 2025.**
- ▶ These new churches are **reaching neighborhoods and**
- people groups** we would find difficult to reach any other way.
- ▶ Our new churches add **strength, health and greater diversity** to our growing family in the Northwest Conference.
- ▶ New churches are often pioneers in becoming **agents of compassion in their communities, and catalysts for neighborhood transformation**
- and justice.** New church planting accounts for the majority of new community-based ministries in the Covenant.
- ▶ Planting new churches is **evidence of our undeniable love for the unchurched.** Our new churches are reaching a significant group of people who are not part of any faith community.

“The primary mission of the Church and, therefore, of the churches is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and gather believers into local churches where they can be built up in the faith and made effective in service; thus new congregations are to be planted throughout the world.”

— *David Hesselgrave*



Did you ever stop to think that the true fruit of an apple tree is an orchard? You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you can't count the number of apples in a seed.







“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

**PRAY** You can commit to pray for the Church Planting pastors and new churches within the Northwest Conference.

**ENCOURAGE** Ask your church leadership to step out in faith and get involved in reaching the lost through parenting or partnering to plant a new church.

**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.

**HELP** If presented with an opportunity, commit to assist in a new Church Plant in whatever way(s) you can.

**COMMIT** Become a Northwest Conference Church Planting Partner. Through ongoing financial support, you can accelerate the development of new churches in the Northwest Conference.

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

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## HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN GET INVOLVED

**PARENT** 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.

**PARTNER** Your church can commit to join a Partnering Church Network where several churches join together to plant a church, sharing the costs and the commitment. This puts Church Planting within the reach of every Covenant church in the Northwest Conference.

**SEND** Your church can commit to send some people out to help in the planting of a new church.

**PRAY** Your church can commit to pray for the new church you have helped to birth.

**COMMIT** Your church can provide resources through its annual budget for Church Planting. Your church can also commit a portion of money raised during a capital campaign or other fundraising initiative.





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

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