



## Every Church Plant a Church Trusting God for PCA Church Planting Multiplication

November 9, 2009

Every Church Plant a Church (ECPC) encourages every church to seek God's leading toward greater involvement in church planting, trusting God for a growing multiplication of PCA church planting. ECPC is not an expectation that every church sends out a group of members to begin a church, though many churches will do this. ECPC is not an expectation that every church is involved in church planting in the same way. Every new church is a unique work of God's Spirit, formed as God's people respond uniquely to God's call to know and love the people of their communities and advance the Gospel among them.

What ECPC is: A waiting upon God in prayer...

- For an ever greater work of His Spirit...
- Stirring vision and zeal for the mobilization of our churches to plant churches who plant churches...
- Through encouraging God's people to respond to His call to begin new churches, as...
- Church planters and lay men and women are led by God's Spirit into church planting leadership.

Churches will be planted:

- By many methods,
- Among the great variety of people groups all across the communities of North America,
- Calling for many different roles by many different people,
- Utilizing the great depth and variety of time, talent and treasure with which God has blessed the PCA.

To gain momentum in church planting, the PCA must effectively address:

- Waiting on God in prayer, advancing the proclamation of Christ's mercies by God's power and according to His plans, rather than by man's power and plans (*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Ps. 127:1*);
- Acquiring a commitment to evangelism, driven by an active belief that the lost are truly lost, that they can find salvation in none other than Christ, and that we - members of the PCA - are ambassadors of the redemption offered only in Christ. Just when Christians have gotten oriented to thinking that evangelism is best done through inviting the unchurched to worship services, there are clear indications that the unchurched are less and less responsive to this approach, bringing a resurgence in the need for personal evangelism (*...that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. II Corinthians 5:19-20*);
- Growing and developing leaders - from their youth - who will respond to God's call to serve as church planters, rather than only searching for those who are already prepared;
- Preparing candidates for ministry through mentoring programs - such as MNA's LAMP and SpanishLAMP - providing alternatives to residential seminaries, thus increasing the number of candidates and keeping their ministry development in continuity with their cultures of origin;
- Crossing cultural and socioeconomic lines, so that the PCA becomes a life changing presence among all the many people groups of North America;

Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ

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- Building into church planters and new churches a vision and equipping for church multiplication. Most church planters today intend to establish a church planting church; multiplication will begin as we equip church planters to actually implement that intention in the life and work of the new church.
- Acquiring a vision to send church planters and lay leaders, along with sufficient financial support, to the many communities and regions of North America in which the PCA - and the Gospel - does not have a strong presence today.

MNA provides a startup tool kit that will help you develop and present the ECPC vision in your church, presbytery or church planting network. Included in the tool kit:

- Every Church Plant a Church DVD
- Church Planter Recruiting Guide booklet
- Ministering among the Changing Cultures of North America DVD
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- Articles in MNA's newsletter *Multiply*, illustrating the ECPC principles and methods as they have been implemented by PCA churches, are available on the MNA web site.

MNA Church Planting Services (MNA provides these services, or provides referrals and assistance to presbyteries, churches and church planting networks to assist them in setting up these services locally):

- Vision that directs and shapes church planting activity
- Strategic planning, including values, goals, and action plans
- Prayer mobilization encouraging prayer for the harvest (Matthew 9:38)
- Forming and equipping teams to move the vision forward
- Developing and cultivating potential church planters
- Recruiting church planters
- Assessment in the calling, competencies, and character of potential church planters
- Training and mentoring men in effective church planting principles
- Placing church planters in suitable opportunities
- Training and coaching church planters in fundraising
- Coaching and care of the church planter and his wife
- Celebrating what God is doing in Kingdom expansion through church planting in the PCA

MNA Church Planting Staff: in order to address the many opportunities for ministry in our changing communities, learn from churches and presbyteries who have gone before:

- Church Planting Resources: Ted Powers
- African American Ministries: Wy Plummer
- Church Planter Development: Jim Hatch
- Church Planting Spouses Ministry: Shari Thomas
- Haitian Ministries: Dony St. Germain
- Hispanic American Ministries: Tim McKeown
- Korean Ministries: Henry Koh
- Leadership & Ministry Preparation (LAMP): Brian Kelso
- Native American/First Nations: Bruce Farrant
- Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches: Renato Bernardes
- Church Renewal: Ted Powers
- Urban & Mercy Ministries: Randy Nabors

MNA Outreach Ministries Staff; these ministries will extend the outreach of the churches you plant, and equip them to serve the many needs of their communities from their very earliest stages:

- Chaplain Ministries: Doug Lee
- Disaster Response: Arklie Hooten
- ESL Ministries: Nancy Booher
- Ministry to State: Chuck Garriott
- MNA ShortTerm Missions: Arklie Hooten
- Prison Ministries: Mark Casson
- Special Needs Ministries: Step Hubach

ECPC Financial Support: for the PCA to grow in church planting multiplication, the commitment of substantial additional financial resources for church planting will be required in order to:

- Strengthen the MNA infrastructure, including Askings for General Assembly MNA, presbytery church planting support, and infrastructure support for church planting networks.
- Increase church planting project funds:
  - Funds/campaigns for church planters who do not have a strong support network in the PCA.
  - Funds/campaigns for church planting project support that can be assigned at MNA's discretion to any city in North America
  - Funds/campaigns for specific regions, with distribution to specific cities at MNA's discretion
  - Funds/campaigns for specific cities, encouraging advance gifts for potential plants prior to the call of the church planter. E.g., seeking funds for such western cities as Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Denver, Portland, Seattle, Phoenix, Tucson, and Albuquerque.

ECPC calls for financial commitment from:

- Established PCA churches to provide in much greater measure;
- New mission churches to commit to infrastructure and church planting project support from the very beginning of their benevolent giving.
- MNA financial services available (contact Fred Marsh):
  - MNA accounts for specific projects and cities
  - MNA advise and consult church planting accounts
  - PCAF advise and consult accounts (contact the PCA Foundation)

Stories of churches who have planted churches; these illustrate the variety of potential methods, and variety of communities served. Many in the PCA have already gone before us to show us the way:

- The stories of six churches are told on the MNA DVDs, *Ministering Among the Changing Cultures of North America*, and *Every Church Plant a Church*
- Evergreen Presbyterian in Beaverton OR (Portland metro area)
- Harbor Presbyterian in San Diego CA
- Redeemer Presbyterian in McKinney TX
- Covenant Presbyterian in Birmingham AL
- Sycamore Presbyterian in Midlothian VA (Richmond metro area)
- New City Fellowship in St. Louis MO and Chattanooga TN
- Crossroads Presbyterian in Maplewood MO
- Tabernacle Presbyterian in Waynesboro VA