



# CULTIVATING RENEWAL IN YOUR ASSOCIATION

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QUICK START GUIDE



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**Your journey to cultivating a renewal movement in your association starts here.**

This Quick-Start Guide offers simple, actionable steps for Associational Mission Strategists (AMS) to help pastors and churches fulfill their calling to glorify God by facilitating a renewal movement. The association exists to serve churches, not to be served. To maximize your impact, assess the current state of churches in your association and strategically work toward engaging every church in a renewal movement. The following steps will guide you through this process.



### RESOURCE ICON


We have gathered key resources developed by the NAMB Replant Team and other key partners to support you throughout this process. Where the resource icon is present, find additional resources and tools by using the QR code or going to [www.renewalmovement.com](http://www.renewalmovement.com).



## ASSESS THE SITUATION

*How do I identify the current reality in my association?*

### 1. Evaluate Church Health

- Define a prescribed list of characteristics of a healthy church, plateaued church, declining church and dying church. 
- Use ACP data to consider churches' attendance and giving trends.
- Categorize the churches as healthy, plateaued, declining and dying congregations.


### 2. Measure Engagement Levels

- Sort churches' level of engagement (collaborating, serving, giving, etc) in the association into three categories: fully engaged; somewhat engaged; not engaged at all.

### 3. Review Pastoral Involvement

- Determine how many pastors are already working together in missional endeavors.
- List the pastors who have been fully engaged in the association over the last five years.

### 4. Evaluate Your Capacity to Help

- Assess your level of competency through the AMS Assessment and develop a growth plan from the results. 
- Categorize current associational ministries as effective or non-effective in enabling churches to be on the path of renewal.


## PRIORITIZE YOUR FOCUS

*How do I develop a clear strategy for helping churches?*


### 1. Remove the Obstacles

- Identify relationships that are in need of repair and work on them one at a time.
- Eliminate the programs or rhythms in the organization that dilute or distract you from helping churches make lifelong followers of Jesus.

### 2. Build Your Skills and Your Team

- Recruit a Renewal Team from the list of engaged pastors to learn with them and develop a strategy for cultivating a renewal movement. 
- Attend the AMS Replant Lab with your Renewal Team.
- Engage a NAMB resource for your development, such as coaching from a Replant Team Member or training at an AMS Excellence Event.



### 3. Set Clear Objectives

- Identify a clear vision and 2-3 strategic objectives the association can pursue to foster a renewal movement.
- Initiate renewal conversations with pastors to share insights and to receive input, encouragement, and next steps. 



## ENGAGE CHURCHES FOR RENEWAL

*How do I cultivate an ongoing movement of renewal?*

### 1. Plan or Promote Events that Inspire and Catalyze Renewal

- Plan a Launch Gathering: *Am I a Replanter*, *Pathways to Partnership*, or *God's Not Done with Your Church*. 
- Plan Annual/Semi-Annual Meetings to include a renewal emphasis.
- Promote or partner with renewal events by other associations, your state convention, or the NAMB Replant Team. 

### 2. Support the Ongoing Pursuit of Renewal

- Create processes for revitalization and replanting by adapting the Associational Replant Guide and Quick-Start Guides for your context. 
- Engage pastors in intentional coaching conversations as a follow up to events. 
- Watch for God's activity among churches and volunteer to serve them through conflict resolution, staff development, pastor search processes, etc.

### 3. Engage Every Pastor in the Movement

- Utilize the Renewal Conversation Tool to engage every pastor in a crucial conversation about his church's next step to forward the renewal movement. 



## AMPLIFY THE RESULTS

*How do I expand and sustain the renewal movement?*

### 1. Share Stories of Success

- Use technology and social media to tell stories of church renewal. Update your annual and semi-annual meetings to highlight these successes and inspire others.
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## 2. Offer Targeted Care

- Develop a plan to help churches repurpose their resources for kingdom efforts when closure is the only option. 
- Utilize strategies like Church Fostering to provide time and place for escalating help for declining or dying churches. 
- Identify support services the association or state convention can give the pastors and their families.

## 3. Continue Increasing Involvement

- Recruit more leaders to engage the work of helping churches.
- Form pastoral cohorts to enhance collaboration between healthy churches and those in need of revitalization.
- Connect healthy churches with plateaued, declining or dying churches.

**Need more information?**  
Contact us at [replant@namb.net](mailto:replant@namb.net)

