

# SUPPORTING CHURCH REPLANTS



“I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” - **Philippians 1:3-6 (CSB)**

## INTRODUCTION

Gospel partnership is at the heart of the Great Commission. The Philippian church supported Paul, both in his work of planting new churches and in strengthening established churches. Local churches encouraged and supported one another in various ways in the book of Acts and beyond. Just as individual believers are not meant to follow Jesus alone, local churches are not meant to pursue the mission alone.

10-15% of churches in the SBC are healthy and multiplying, 70-75% are plateaued or declining, and 10-15% are at or near risk.<sup>1</sup>

The need for church renewal is massive, and gospel partnership is essential to seeing **EVERY CHURCH RENEWED**. No matter your church's size, giftings, or location, you **can** play a vital role by supporting a church replant **today**. Through this brief resource, we hope to provide you with clear answers on the why and how of supporting church replanting.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Hallock, *Replant Roadmap: How Your Congregation Can Help Revitalize Dying Churches* (Acoma Press), 26.

# WHY BECOME A SUPPORTING CHURCH?<sup>2</sup>

## SEVEN REASONS

1. God's people in dying churches need encouragement, nourishment, and fresh vision.
2. The lost in our communities need to see congregations alive and on mission.
3. We have a biblical mandate to make disciples who make disciples.
4. God is honored as we steward money, buildings, and other resources.
5. Revitalized and replanted churches bring hope to others.
6. Other declining churches need fresh vision, ideas, and ministry strategies.
7. We desire the praise and glory of God's name throughout the earth.

## THREE OBJECTIONS

### 1. *We don't have the resources.*

Whether it's finances or people, church leaders can always see the need for more in their own context. Beginning to support a church replant means sending more of those resources beyond your context. But remember: We don't suffer from a scarcity reality. Our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and we can confidently partner with others, knowing that the God of abundance will provide all we need for the mission He's given.

### 2. *We aren't ready to replant.*

Maybe you're hearing comments like, "We've never done anything like this before!" Or "Don't we still have issues here that we need to figure out first?" Both of these viewpoints may make churches hesitant to support a replant; however, the reality is that churches who generously partner with others will grow in courage and strength as they take kingdom risks and join in God's mission in fresh ways. Time after time, churches who take the bold step to partner with struggling churches experience the multiplication of their investment—just like Jesus shares in the parable of the talents. May we not allow fear to keep us from sacrificially investing in the kingdom through replanting.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from "Why We Must Replant Churches Now," in *Replant Roadmap* by Mark Hallock.

### ***3. We should just plant new churches.***

Planting and replanting shouldn't be set in opposition to one another. These are both clear priorities of the New Testament. Instead of an "either/or" approach, we should follow Paul's model and consider how we can both start *and* strengthen churches.

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## **HOW TO BECOME A SUPPORTING CHURCH**

With a vision for replanting and a massive need all around us, finding the right church to support or the right replanter to come alongside you can feel like a daunting task. So, where do we start?

### **DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIPS**

#### ***1. Connect with your local association.***

The best partnerships are built on relationships. Taking part in associational meetings or projects provides a context for building relationships with your associational leader, as well as other pastors and church leaders.

#### ***2. Participate in state or national replant events.***

Many state conventions, as well as NAMB's Replant team, host replant events that provide opportunities to learn from, encourage, and connect with replant leaders and churches in need.

#### ***3. Deepen your dependence on the Lord.***

Above all, we must lean into our relationship with the Lord and seek His direction. Nothing is more essential than praying for God to open your eyes to a church in need, raise up replanters for the work, and go before you in this partnership.

### **CONNECT WITH A CHURCH OR REPLANTER**

#### ***1. Invite people in your network to pray with you for a partnership.***

Personal connections in your immediate area and from your ministry history may be the best source for finding opportunities that have depth of relationship and ministry alignment.

## **2. *Engage your associational, state, or NAMB Replant staff.***

Leaders on each level of Baptist life may be aware of different opportunities to engage in a replant partnership. Share why you want to partner and what kind of partnership you believe the Lord is leading you to engage.

## **PARTNER WITH A CHURCH REPLANT**

### **1. *Pray***

- Intercede regularly for the replanter and his family.
- Pray intentionally, personally, and corporately for the replant. Here are a few key things to pray for:
  - Legacy members as they experience change
  - New laborers to join the replant core team
  - New opportunities to serve the community
  - Community members to embrace the gospel
  - Commission the replanter and mission teams for their ministry work each time they are sent.

### **2. *Plan***

- Clarify the commitments and expectations of the supporting and replanting churches. (See the appendix for a sample partnership agreement you can adapt.)
- Prepare your leaders and congregation for the work ahead by intentionally equipping them to pray and participate.

### **3. *Provide***

- Financially: Replanting often has significant costs, so be prepared to support with sacrificial generosity (no matter how big or small that may be). Determine the frequency and length of your financial support.
- Relationally: Care for and invest in the ongoing development of the replanter and his family. Additionally, consider mobilizing leaders in your church to encourage and coach their counterparts in the replant.

#### 4. *Participate*

- **Serve:** Join the replant with boots-on-the-ground support. Avoid preconceived notions of the kind of mission-trip support the church may need. Prepare your teams to serve with effectiveness and with joy.
- **Worship:** Send leaders and members to simply worship alongside the replant. The encouragement of other vibrant believers can go a long way to invigorate others in the ups and downs of replanting.

#### 5. *Promote*

- Update your church regularly by communicating wins to build passion and offering challenges that encourage prayer.
- Share about your partnership with other pastors and churches. As cliché as it may be, we truly are better together. Inviting other churches to partner with the replant multiplies your impact.
- Celebrate the work that is being done with your association, state, and the NAMB Replant team. Brag on the work God is doing! There is no better way to encourage and challenge others to get in the game.
- **Note:** Take extra care to encourage and support the replanter's wife and family. The challenges of replanting can be especially heavy for them to bear, and partnering churches can play a huge role in helping wives and families thrive.

## APPENDIX<sup>3</sup>

- **How to Pray, Participate, and Provide**

[DOWNLOAD](#)

- **Sample Partnership Agreements**

[DOWNLOAD](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from "SEND Network Supporting Church Toolkit," <https://www.namb.net/send-network/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/06/Supporting-Church-Toolkit-2.pdf>.



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