

10 WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN BECOME A PARTNER IN CHURCH PLANTING HERE IN TENNESSEE

1. **Engaging in Strategic Intercessory Prayer**

Churches can pray for pockets of lostness, for church planting leaders, and for spiritual breakthroughs. Your entire church can be blessed by ongoing prayer and eventual visible results. Children, youth, and adults can pray in meaningful ways in existing small groups, in prayer gatherings, and in worship celebrations. Prayer walks on the church planting field can give church members memorable encounters which can quickly turn into significant ministry moments.

2. **Adopting a Church Planter and His Family**

You can provide encouragement to a church planter in dozens of ways. Be a friend by inviting a planter over for dinner. Babysit for a planter and his wife as they go on a date. Recognize the planter on holidays and Clergy Appreciation Month. Invite him to preach or to share testimonies.

3. **Contributing to the New Church's Financial Needs**

Often, church plants have significant start-up costs and ongoing expenses. Through monthly or one-time gifts, individuals and churches can provide valuable funding streams. Business leaders can help provide jobs for planters, their families, and team members. Churches can extend their insurance coverage to the new plant or provide medical insurance. Your church can invest in eternity by providing needed financial resources.

4. **Providing Materials and Equipment**

Many churches can assist new churches by providing quality equipment. Sound systems, computers, and office equipment are valuable assets for a new church. Get your entire church involved with a "Baby Shower" for the church nursery or reuse of Vacation Bible School materials and props.

5. **Sharing Your Campus Facilities**

Provide worship or office space for a new church in your current facility. Open up homes for Bible studies and fellowship events. Businesses can provide space for meetings and offices.

6. **Serving on a Church Planting Mission Trip**

Youth groups, college students, and adults can assist the church planting team on a mission trip in a day, weekend, and weeklong setting. Community surveys, block parties, Backyard Bible schools, and neighborhood canvassing are events benefiting the church plant and the partnering church.

7. **Discovering Unreached / Under-reached People in Your Community**

Your church can identify population groups that are not being reached by evangelical ministries. Often churches notice that certain segments of the community do not assimilate into their church after evangelistic events or notice communities desperately need of ministry care. Churches engage these groups with ministries meeting community needs, Gospel seed sowing, and leadership development of leaders from the harvest.

8. **Starting an Outreach Bible Study to Become a New Church**

Bible studies are effective ways to lead people to Christ and to lead them to form a new church. Starting evangelistic Bible Studies in homes, apartment clubhouses, workplace break rooms, civic buildings, and churches can assist in gathering people who may form a leadership team for a new church. A Bible study unit can grow into a core leadership team for a new church.

9. **Sending People and Families to Help**

Encourage members to prayerfully consider serving with a new church for indefinite or fixed time periods. Children, youth, and music leaders can seed new churches with experienced leadership, while influencing the development of new leaders. As churches release their people for church planting, they demonstrate their confidence in God's plan to provide for all of their leadership needs.

10. **Mentoring Church Planting Leaders**

Pastors can expand their influence by mentoring other church planters in pastoral, leadership, and preaching skills. Staff and program leaders can reproduce themselves by sharing their insights with members of the church planting team.

For more information, contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention *New Churches Team* at 615.371.7925