

WIN

PLANT CHURCHES
TO WIN
TENNESSEE!



How Can My Church Be Involved In Winning Tennessee Through Church Planting

Why Church Planting in Tennessee

Fast Facts

1. 4 Million lost people in a population of 6 million
2. 1000 Unchurched people for every SBC Church in Tennessee
3. 145 people groups with 45 of them being less than 2 percent reached.
4. Average of 15-25 TBC churches closing per year
5. An Average of 50-60 thousand people are moving to Tennessee a year



OBJECTIVE 3

Planting and strategically engaging at least 1,000 new churches by 2024.



A combine harvester is shown in a field during sunset. The harvester is illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun, creating a strong contrast with the darkening sky. The harvester is moving through a field of crops, likely corn, and is leaving a trail behind it. The overall scene is one of agricultural activity at the end of the day.

The
Greatest
Evangelistic
Method
Under
Heaven is

Church Planting

**Conventions and Associations do
not plant churches. CHURCHES
PLANT CHURCHES!**

The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board recognizes **a new church plant** by the following qualifications:

1. A Mother church/Sending church leadership responsible for the church plant.
2. A plan for a regular gathering of the church to carry out the biblical functions of a church.
3. A plan for a recognized church membership.
4. A plan to carry out the Great Commission.

9 Reasons to be a Mother Church

Why would a church want to be a Mother Church? Taking responsibility for a new church plant can be difficult and time consuming. Sending your best people, investing your time and sharing your resources to begin a new work in a difficult place requires a giant step of faith. So, what should move a church to take on this great task?

Here are nine reasons your church should become a Mother Church:

1. New churches reach new people more effectively

4 million people in Tennessee do not have a personal relationship with Christ. One study revealed established Southern Baptist churches baptized 3.4 people per 100 resident members, while new churches baptized 11.7.

2. New churches are needed to reach a growing population

Population of Tennessee is increasing by 50-60 thousand a year

3. New churches are needed to reach different kinds of people

The diversity of Tennessee necessitates new churches who are willing and able to reach different kinds of people. The gospel doesn't change, but our methods must be contextualized to the people we are reaching.

4. Church planting is a central biblical model for kingdom growth

Ed Stetzer writes, "When we look throughout the New Testament, we see church planting as an established pattern. . . . It's the first thing the disciples did when they responded to the commissions of Jesus. They planted churches."¹

5. Church plants are more healthy when a Mother Church is involved

The survivability of church plants increases dramatically when a strong Mother Church is involved.

6. Churches that send grow spiritually

Mother Churches are often stretched spiritually as they trust the Lord with their people and finances. J.D. Greear wrote, "The closer you walk with Jesus and the more you understand what He did to save you, the more natural sending will become. Sending, like all spiritual fruits, grows out of a healthy gospel culture."²

¹ "9 Reasons an Established Church Should Plant Churches," B&H Academic Blog (April 26, 2016) <http://www.bhacademicblog.com/9-reasons-an-established-churchshould-plant-churches/>.

² J.D. Greear, *Gaining by Loosing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015), 51.

7. Churches that send grow missionally

Churches involved in planting new churches are constantly challenged with a greater kingdom-vision, ever-new missional strategies and an increased passion for reaching their own communities.

8. Churches that send grow leaders

Sending people to plant churches inevitably create holes in the Mother Church's leadership. These holes provide great developmental opportunities for new leaders. The best Sending Churches make the most of these challenges by creating leadership factories, with new leaders constantly ready to serve, grow and be sent.

9. Churches that send grow numerically

The research of Jeffery Farmer indicates that churches involved in helping start new churches experienced positive increases in worship attendance, baptism and small group participation.³

Mother Church Commitments

What is a Mother Church?

A Mother Church partners with a new church plant in prayer, participation and/or provision, taking responsibility for the plant until she is self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating.

What does TBMB expect of a Mother Church?

1. Discovering Church Planters

- Cast vision and pray for God to work and move people from the pews to mission.
- Implement a strategy to lead your church to pray regularly for church planters.
- Establish intentional processes that raise up planters from within your church or adopt a planter who needs a Mother Church

2. Developing Church Planters

- Develop systems that equip discovered planters with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to plant a church.
- Ensure your planters are properly assessed and appropriately trained.
- Determine an appropriate budget
- Help enlist additional Partnering Churches.

3. Deploy Your Church Planter

- Commit to the health and long-term success of the plant and planting team.
- Enlist a church member or staff person to provide leadership to the partnership
- Celebrate and encourage your church plant(er) with a commissioning service for planter/team.
- Plan, provide, and/or ensure ongoing prayer, support, care and coaching/mentoring.
- Provide accountability for giving, including support of the Cooperative Program and Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

³ Jeffery Farmer, "Church Planting Sponsorship: A Statistical Analysis of Sponsoring a Church Plant as a Means of Revitalization of the Sponsor Church" (Ph.D. diss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007).

What can a Mother Church expect of TBMB?

- Networking assistance for partner churches.
- Resources and events to help develop awareness within and equipping within the Mother Church (i.e., Seven Steps Training, Team Training).
- Strategic research assistance (i.e., community demographic reports).
- Coaching and mentoring assistance for planters and Mother Churches
- Resources and events to provide mobilization, ongoing training and multiplication development for planters and Mother Churches (i.e., Mother Church Lab).
- Potential financial resources for church plant (i.e., grants for startup funds).

How do Mother Churches relate to the TBC?

- Mother Churches must support the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and commit to lead the new church plant to be in agreement with its content.
- Mother Churches must be in friendly cooperation and able to seat messengers at the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.
- Mother Churches must be systematically giving to the Cooperative Program and supporting the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

10 Mother Church Basics

Mother Churches commit to take responsibility for a church plant until it can stand on its own as a self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating church. Many Mother Churches have questions about their role in helping a church become self-sustainable.

Here are 10 basic things a Mother Church should do

1. Enlist a member of your church or staff to lead your partnership

Every church plant needs a champion within the Mother Church. Begin by identifying who the best leader from the Mother Church would be to act as the primary advocate for the new church among the sending congregation.

2. Clarify the partnership's goals and expectations with a signed, written agreement

Much like marriage counseling, a written agreement will help the Mother Church and the church planter to talk through the major issues they will face. Writing out those expectations and signing an agreement can help make sure everyone is on the same page and underlines the significance of what you're doing.

3. Ensure your planter has been assessed and appropriate training begins

Every church planter should be assessed, both within the Mother Church and by those with significant experience in church planting. TBMB stands ready to help with one of the best church planter assessments in the world. Learn more at TBMB.net/Church-Planter-Assessment. Proper training is also essential to maximizing a planter's strengths and helping them grow in needed areas.

4. Help your planter determine a budget and establish financial policies and procedures

Mother Churches should take the lead role in helping a planter determine an appropriate salary, planting budget and financial accountability processes.

5. Help incorporate your church plant, draft operating documents, and develop accounting and employment policies and procedures

TBMB expects that the Mother Churches will carefully evaluate the specific circumstances of each plant with respect to incorporation, operating documents (i.e., bylaws, personnel policies), and accounting policies and procedures. When necessary, the Mother Church and the church plant will need to seek professional counsel.

6. Develop a volunteer strategy with planter

Volunteers can be a big help to church planters, but only when their participation in the planting process is strategic and volunteers are well-equipped to serve.

7. Develop and implement on-going prayer and care strategies

When your planter hits the field, he will be in the crosshairs of Satan's attempts to thwart his work. Your proactive prayer, encouragement and care for your church planter may make the difference between his success and failure. Mother Churches should lead out in the great work of praying and caring for the church plant, the planter and the planting team.

8. Enlist Partnering Churches to help pray, participate and provide

Church planting is costly, financially and otherwise. Most of the time, it takes a coalition of churches to plant a new church. The Mother Church takes the lead role in helping the planter develop a team of Partnering Churches to join in this great work through prayer, participation and/or providing for the planter's various needs.

9. Celebrate and commission your planter publicly

The Mother Church has the unique privilege of celebrating and commissioning the church planter as they launch them to this new work. This is a great opportunity to communicate to your congregation what God has done and pray for what He will do through this new work.

10. Ensure your planter receives adequate coaching

While you can care for your planter emotionally, spiritually and physically, you may struggle to coach him strategically unless you have planted a church in a similar context. The Sending Church should take the lead role in finding a coach that has the expertise and experience that will help the planter walk through the tactical aspects of church planting.

5 Places to Find Planters in your Church

Where do I look for planters to send?

Future leaders do not simply appear; they are discovered. Your church provides fertile soil for the discovery of future leaders and some of the best training ground for their development. For this to happen, current leaders must assume the responsibility for both recognizing and exhorting young leaders to the vital work of church leadership.

Here are 5 places to look for church planters within your church:

1. Look Around You

Look around you with fresh eyes. Look to see where God is *already* at work among the leaders He has *already* given you. You're not going to find what you're not looking for, so look intently within your congregation for potential church planters.

2. Look for New Believers

Often, new believers still have relationships with those far from God and are ready to make radical sacrifices for God's mission. Pastors should seize this opportunity to challenge new believers to consider how God is calling them to steward their lives for his mission.

3. Look for Godly Character

Do you see a pattern of change, repentance, and growth in one's life? Look not for perfection here; look instead for clear brokenness over sin, a trust in the gospel, and a battle for holiness. These marks one's growth in understanding and applying the gospel to their life.

4. Look for Proven Faithfulness

Proven faithfulness can only be observed over a period of time among the church. Look to develop people who naturally lead without without a title. Leaders are not leaders if no one is willing to follow them. Sheep recognize shepherds. They see them lead and want to follow.

5. Look for Passionate Desire

Anyone willing to lead among challenging church situations must be willing to trust God and take faith-fueled risks for His mission. This means future leaders will often have a desire for more. For this reason, future leaders may make their desire to lead known. They aspire to lead and serve because of a God-given passion more than simple prideful posturing.

How to Develop Planters in Your Church

As you discover potential church planters within your congregation, you may begin to ask, "How do I help these men prepare to plant a church?" Mother Churches will intentionally speak into the calling of a planter and walk with them through every crucial step of the planting process.

1. Assess their Call

Disciples will only be produced by the power of the gospel, which means that any development plan must submerge them in the water of the gospel and allow them to soak in its life-giving truth (Gal. 3:1-5).

2. Commit to a Process

Disciples cannot be mass-produced through content-laden curriculum. They are produced through the intense process of walking with a person in the context of a loving relationship as they grow in gospel understanding and application (Rom. 5:3-5).

3. Identify a Mentor and a Coach

Disciples cannot train themselves (or at least they should not have to). Rather, what they need is for a mature leader to mentor them through an intentional process of development. This process will build into them the tools that they are sure to need to multiply and make more disciples (2 Tim. 3:14; 2 Tim. 2:2).

4. Develop Critical Areas

Disciples are not made in isolation. The local church provides the context for them to form relationships with other aspiring leaders with whom they can grow and internalize what it means to follow Jesus and serve the church. (Heb. 13:17).

5. Listen to Others

There is no omni-competent disciple and leader. They come in all shapes and sizes, and developing disciples need a process by which they can try on various roles in the church and discover their best fit for fruitful ministry (1 Cor. 12:14-26).

6. Provide Ongoing Feedback

Disciple-multiplication happens in the context of real-life relationships with messy people, not simply in the classroom. The skills necessary to connect theological training with practical wisdom is only forged in the local church (1 Tim. 3:6-7).

Partnering Church Guide

What is a Partnering Church?

A Partnering Church comes alongside a Sending Church to support a church plant by praying, participating and/or providing.

What does TBMB expect of a Partnering Church?

A Partnering Church relates to a church plant(er) in a multitude of ways. Prayer, participation and provision are simply broad categories to help clarify a supporting relationship, but the examples given below are far from exhaustive.

1. Pray

Support a plant by praying specifically and strategically for a planter, plant, city and/or region.

2. Participate

Participate by involving members personally in ministry with the church planter. Some examples of this include sending mission teams to assist the plant's strategic vision, mobilizing individuals to join the planting team, encourage the planter, etc.

3. Provide

As relationships develop, a church may find tangible ways they can meet the needs of their church plant(er). Partnering Churches may partner by meeting some of these needs during a plant's critical first years.

What can a Partnering Church expect of TBMB?

- Networking assistance for partner churches.
- Resources and events to help develop awareness within and equipping within the Mother Church (i.e., Seven Steps Training, Team Training).
- Strategic research assistance (i.e., community demographic reports).
- Coaching and mentoring assistance for planters and Mother Churches
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How does Partnering Churches relate to the TBC?

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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.

SPECIFIC RESOURCES and ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO MOTHER CHURCHES and PLANTERS

IS CHURCH PLANTING FOR MY CHURCH: This is a 4-hour introduction to church planting in Tennessee with an overview of models of planting, what it means to sponsor a church plant, ways of supporting a church plant and resources available for churches interested in planting.

A CHURCH'S GUIDE TO CHURCH PLANTING: This is a simple guide to explain the types of ways that churches can sponsor a new church and ways to begin casting vision for your church to start a new church.

RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Demographics: The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board can provide in-depth demographic and psychographic information on all areas of Tennessee. These studies can be as narrow as a 1-mile radius to customized studies of areas. These studies can help determine who to focus on in planting a church.

Mapping Center: The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board through its relationship with the Mapping Center of Evangelism and Church Growth can provide outreach tools and services for churches in Tennessee, including mapping, residential listings, demographics, mailing lists, and new moves.

CHURCH PLANTER CANDIDATE ASSISTANCE

On-Line Church Planter Pre-Assessment Service: We have partnered with Church Planter Profiles to help those potential church planters or those considering church planting discern their readiness for church planting quickly and easily in an online environment. <http://tbc.churchplanterprofiles.com/cake>.

Church Planting Assessors: We can provide a list of church planting assessors located here in Tennessee and a list of church planting assessment centers around the U.S. who can provide an in-depth assessment of a mother/sponsor church's church planting candidate and spouse.

TRAINING:

1-5-1 Harvest Training: Harvest Plants refers to off-campus efforts aimed at gathering lost people for the purpose of sharing the gospel.

We have identified three types of plants:

Branches - extensions of existing on-campus Bible studies

Groups - similar to branches but not connected to any other program of the church

Churches - a new work that will carry on all of the functions of a church

4 Fields Training (T4T): There are several master trainers here in the state that can come do a customize training and follow up coaching on how to develop a 4 Fields Discipleship Church Planting Training for a church plant.

Disciples Making Disciples: The purpose of this training course is to equip Disciples who will make Disciples. Participants will be equipped to share their faith with others. Disciple new believers and lead those new believers to form new Churches/Missional communities that will reproduce themselves.

Edge Training: This is a six lesson study on how to equip believers to evangelize, disciple, train reproducing disciples and begin communities of faith and churches anywhere.

TRAINING FOR CHURCH PLANTERS and MOTHER/SPONSOR CHURCHES

Basic Training Journey for Church Planters: Basic Training Journey for Church Planters is a resource designed to walk church planting teams through an intensive journey of exploring the strategic issues of a church planting process. It also assisting them in developing a customized strategy for planting healthy, reproductive churches.

Churches Planting Churches Training: Tennessee Baptist Mission Board is using this tool to help churches plant healthy churches. This is a biblically-based, practical resource. The event is a "workshop" for planting new churches, not a conference. You will actually work with your team to complete an implementation assignment before you leave the CPCT.

Mentoring/Coaching Training: Coaches in each part of Tennessee who will help coach planters through their 1st year from the time they launch the new church plant.

Funding Grants to Mother Churches: Contact the TBC New Churches Team for information.