

Frequently Asked Questions:

How does this Church Starting process differ from the former one?

- More specific expectations for the new church to reproduce and replenish mission funds.
- The BGCT can now enter a relationship with any new church at any point—versus previous linear process.
- More thorough and standardized visits by BGCT Church Starter than required before.
- Items discussed, measured and then resourced are different (11 New Church Start components).
- All reports and applications are completed and transmitted electronically.
- The BGCT offers other kinds of new church assistance (consultation work, funding, mentoring, prayer support).

Will funding decisions still be made by the Missions Funding Group of the BGCT Executive Board?

- Yes. This group meets more often to review the new assessment and make any funding decisions. Other resources are made available as needed.

Do all New Church Starts entering into a Covenant Agreement with the BGCT receive funds?

- No. Funding is based on context and need. Many new churches need other BGCT assistance—leadership assessment, training, discipleship and Bible study materials—rather than funding.
- Funding is seen as only one of the 11 New Church Start components—not the most critical need.

Who can provide me with more information?

- Paul Atkinson is the Church Starter/Team Leader. Reach his office by telephone (888)244-9400, or email paul.atkinson@bgct.org. The BGCT Service Center personnel may also connect you with the Church Starter serving your area.

BGCT

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www.bgct.org/churchstarting



A brighter way to start new churches.



The BGCT Church Starting Experience.

Need a hand starting a new church? Your prayers are answered.

If your group's commitment is strong and you're ready to assume the responsibility God has given you, the BGCT can help—with leadership assessment, training, discipleship and Bible study materials, even funding. After all, Church Starting is about relationships, especially those between people and God. But it's also about partnerships between the BGCT and Sponsor Churches, Associations and leaders of the new church. We know that when all parties have a clear, strong common vision, the results are new churches that can grow, reproduce and replenish mission funds.

Take the first step: complete a New Church Start Application.

This form is accessible online at www.bgct.org. Submit it, and a Church Starter from the BGCT staff will meet with you, your Sponsor Church, and everyone interested in supporting your new church. If all Partners agree on what is expected and how to work together, everyone signs a New Church Start Covenant Agreement.

Share the dream and make the plans.

In visits with your Church Planter (the pastor or leader of the new church) and other Partners, the Church Starter assesses your group's various strengths and weaknesses. He or she then helps guide you to make plans and find resources—both locally and from the BGCT, which is experienced in working with a wide variety of situations, ethnic groups and types of churches.

Expect us to be with you at every step.

All parties agree on the next steps, which typically incorporate the eleven components listed below. Quarterly Partner meetings become a regular part of the relationship until your New Church is ready to function on its own.

The 11 Components of the Church Starting Experience.

- 1. Church Planter Enlistment.** Discover and involve Pastors and Church Planters.
- 2. Assessment Process.** Identify and evaluate the success potential of the new church.
- 3. Prayer & Spiritual Vitality.** Identify demonstrable maturity, growth and strong spiritual life in church leaders.
- 4. Mentoring/Coaching.** Create intentional relationships to befriend, teach and advise principal leaders.
- 5. Core Group Development.** Establish/maintain an essential group of people committed to the Church Start.
- 6. Vision Development.** Turn the God-given dream of a new church into a continuing resource of inspiration.
- 7. Church Type.** Create a unique identity for this new body of baptized believers via ministry and worship.
- 8. Covenant Expectations & Doctrinal Integrity.** Establish mutual understandings to clearly guide relationships, teachings and behaviors aligned to the Bible.
- 9. Lay Leaders.** Find key personnel, other than staff, to provide services or expertise necessary to New Church Start success.
- 10. Training & Development.** Equip all involved people to assume roles in the Church Start.
- 11. Funding.** Determine financial resources necessary for the Church Start.

Keep all your Partners informed.

The New Church Start Covenant Agreement requires your group's Church Planter to complete a monthly report (available via the internet). This keeps all Church Planting Partners aware of the progress and the struggles of the New Church.

Remember that one good start deserves another.

As a new church "born" through this experience, you'll be expected to:

- Be self-supporting within five years.
- Begin another New Church Start within the first five years.
- Continue working with and supporting Partners who contributed to your church's birth and growth.
- Work with the BGCT Church Starter for five years or until ready to constitute and incorporate.
- Work with BGCT Congregational Strategist after incorporated.

Remember the ultimate goal.

The BGCT Church Starting Experience involves many people—not just BGCT staff and Executive Board members, Church Planters, core groups and Church Planting Partners, but ultimately the unchurched people in every part of the state. It is the prayer of all those people that this process will encourage, facilitate and connect churches in their work to fulfill God's mission of reconciling the world to Himself.