

Church Planting Plan and Proposal

Executive Summary

Goals

1. To expand our vision for the Post and 42nd area by reaching the spiritual needs of our neighbors
2. To more effectively reach the physical needs of our neighbors by partnering Renewal Neighborhood Ministry with a neighborhood-based church
3. To further the spiritual growth of Outlook by calling and sending a group of people committed to planting a discipleship-focused, missional church in an impoverished, racially-diverse area and developing new leaders to replace those who are sent out

The Model

Following the model of Jesus' own ministry, the church would consist of the following groups:

1. The Core – Two or three leaders with a shared vision
2. The Twelve – An initial group of 12-20 families, from Outlook and elsewhere, who feel called to plant a discipleship-focused, highly missional, racially diverse church.
3. The Seventy – A strong group of initial followers, from Outlook, other churches, and the neighborhood we are called to serve, who actively participate in the ministry and model the discipleship (spiritual growth) we believe the church should produce
4. The Masses – Those who hear and experience the other groups and have to decide whether to commit their lives to becoming more like Christ.

Core Values

1. Discipleship – The primary focus of the church will be discipling others to become more like Christ in every aspect of their lives. That requires personal spiritual growth; service to others, especially the poor and oppressed; and not just sharing the gospel but showing others the joy of becoming a Christ follower and how to experience that joy for themselves.
2. Mission – Members of the church will consider themselves to be missionaries to the world around them. Following Christ and discipling others to do so will be

their greatest identity and highest priority. These people will live by the principle that church is not something we experience or attend, it is something we do, something we live; it is who we are.

3. Relationship – Following Christ and helping others do so is all about relationships. We must be involved in other people’s lives – the people we form the church with and the people we bring into the church. We must care enough about people to truly put their needs first, to live our lives in such a way that others see Christ in us every day and want to become more like him.
4. Community – This will be a church very much focused on the transformation of individuals and families living in the neighborhoods near Post Road and 42nd Street. Ministering to those people may not be our exclusive calling, but it will clearly be our primary calling. That does NOT necessarily mean moving to the neighborhood. But it does mean committing ourselves to the spiritual, social, and economic transformation of the neighborhood and making the sacrifices necessary to fulfill those commitments

The Plan

1. The Calling – An extended time of church-wide prayer to build unity in the church body behind the goal and to identify those who are called.
2. The Training – A period and process where those who are called are trained to become lay leaders of a the type of church envisioned, where those who are called are strengthened for the work, and where those who are not called are pruned. Led by a person or group with significant church planting knowledge and experience. As the process continues, the foundation of the church is already being formed through the building of relationships among those who have been called.
3. The Sending – When the training process is complete and we discern God’s timing, those called and trained are sent joyfully out to plant the new church among the people we are called to serve.

The Church

1. Independent “daughter” church of Outlook with its own elders, statement of faith principles, vision, priorities, etc.
2. Closely intertwined with, but independent from, Renewal Neighborhood Ministry

3. Recognizes its history and DNA and sees itself as fulfilling the mission of those called to do the church's Kingdom work in this specific neighborhood.

Outlook's Role and Responsibilities

1. Total commitment from leadership and elders to accomplishing the goal, including actively engaging in all of the steps necessary to do so.
2. Extended time of church wide prayer to identify the called.
3. Obtaining and implementing the necessary resources for the called to be trained
4. Joyfully sending out the called with full spiritual and emotional support and a long term financial commitment to allow them to do the work God has called them to.
5. Maintaining a relationship with those called and sent similar to the relationship of a parent with an adult child.
6. Identifying and training those in the church to take on the responsibilities of those who have been sent.

Mike's Role and Responsibilities

1. Subject to Rob's primary communications and leadership roles, take the lead on the church planting process.
2. Member of The Core and likely the founding pastor of the planted church
3. Full participation in all assessment, training and other preparation required by the church planting consultant/coach
4. Remains on staff and fulfills all other current job responsibilities until the new church is sent.