



Best Practices of a Sending Church

A Sending Church is responsible for a new church plant until the plant is self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating. Serving a church planter as a Sending Church is an incredible opportunity, but with that opportunity comes great responsibility.

Here are some of important practices and characteristics to keep in mind as you seek to be a strong sending church.

DO:

- **Take responsibility for the planter** as you would your own staff member.
- **Walk this journey with him until the plant is self-sustaining.** It typically takes three to five years for a plant to effectively meet the budget from only the giving within its own congregation.
- **Officially send the planter out with a commissioning service,** and get your church members involved.
- **Hold the planter personally accountable** to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Code of Conduct.
- **Assist, and hold the planter financially accountable** on a quarterly basis. Help him work through plantingprojector.com.
- **Find creative ways to bless and keep in touch with your planter** (at least once a month). Call, email, text and visit your planter throughout the year.
- **Treat him as a staff member** by including him in staff meetings and retreats when it makes sense geographically.
- **Be available** to listen, guide, struggle alongside and celebrate with your planter.
- **Mentor him** in your strengths as a pastor, and help him find a coach who has planting experience.
- **Plan mission trips** according to the church plant's timeframe and strategic outreach needs.
- **Help the planter enlist and nurture** supporting churches.

DON'T:

- **Overpromise and under deliver.** Know your capacity, and make commitments within those parameters.
- **Make offers of help that only consider your agenda.** Don't assume that the most convenient time for you to take a trip is the best time to go support your planter.
- **Treat him like your travel agent for mission trips.** From the beginning of the planning process to the end of the trip, make sure you are a help instead of a burden.
- **Send outdated books or materials,** like your 1990s VBS curriculum or old seminary textbooks you don't want.
- **Require him to attend all of your staff meetings** even if he's planting geographically close to you.
- **Underfund.** Be reasonable about how much financial support a planter will need in his ministry location.
- **Overfund.** Don't wildly exceed a plant's self-sustaining giving potential and create unrealistic precedents once they are a self-sustaining congregation.
- **Force him to do things just like your church.** The way you do ministry may be best for your context and community, but that doesn't mean it's best for his.
- **Require multiple reports or constantly nag him for information.** Accountability is key, but you also need to maintain a relationship that demonstrates trust in your planter.