

How to develop potential planters

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?” Sending Churches will intentionally speak into the calling of a planter and walk with them through every crucial step of the planting process.

Here are 6 steps you can take to help church planters grow in your church:

1. Assess their Call

Disciples will be produced only 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). Help them discern the work of God in their life and challenge them to take a next step.

2. Commit to a Process

Disciples cannot be mass-produced through a 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 a mature leader to mentor them through an intentional process of development. This process will build into them the tools 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 are only forged in the local church (1 Tim. 3:6-7).

The Send Network can help your church...

- **Build a Multiplication Pipeline**

The Send Network’s Multiplication Pipeline is a survey tool and customizable, online learning system that you can use to develop leaders within your congregation. With three levels of training on 24 competencies, you can tailor the training to your needs. Learn more and register at SendNetwork.com/Pipeline.

- **Start a Leadership Residency**

Every church has leaders who can grow. A residency can help you provide intentional pathways for discovering, developing and deploying missional leaders and church planting teams from within your congregation. Learn more and download the Quick Start Guide at SendNetwork.com/Residencies.