

## Sending Church Essentials

Sending Churches commit to take responsibility for a church plant until it can stand on its own as a self-sustaining, self-governing and self-reproducing church. There are a number of essential things Sending Churches should do to take ownership of their role.

### Here are 10 things every Sending Church should plan to do:

- 1. Plan to champion your partnership.**

Every church plant needs a champion within the Sending Church. You should make a plan to champion your partnership within the church and enlist a member of your staff or church to help lead. Who would be the best leader from your Sending Church to act as the primary advocate among the sending congregation?
- 2. Clarify the partnership's goals and expectations with a signed written agreement.**

A written agreement will help the Sending Church and the church planter work through the major issues they will face in years to come. Writing out your 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 is appropriately assessed and trained.**

Sending churches should ensure that every church planter they send is appropriately assessed and trained. Assessments should be done by those within the Sending Church who know the planter well and by those outside with experience in church planting. Proper training also is essential to maximizing a planter's strengths and helping them grow in needed areas. Send Network stands ready to help with the world's best planter assessment and training. Learn more at [SendNetwork.com](http://SendNetwork.com)
- 4. Help your planter determine a budget and establish financial policies and procedures.**

Sending Churches should take the lead role in helping a planter determine an appropriate salary, planting budget and financial accountability processes. Send Network has developed [PlantingProjector.com](http://PlantingProjector.com) as a free resource to help church planters and Sending Churches with this budgeting process.
- 5. Help incorporate your church plant, draft operating documents and develop accounting and employment policies and procedures.**

Send Network expects the Sending Church to carefully evaluate the specific circumstances of each plant with respect to incorporation, operating documents (i.e., bylaws, personnel policies) and accounting policies and procedures. It may be necessary for the Sending Church and the church plant to seek professional legal counsel.
- 6. Develop a volunteer strategy with the 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-prepared to serve. Sit down with the planter and develop a plan for sending short-term volunteers and long-term team members to help start the new church.
- 7. Develop and implement intentional 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. Sending churches should lead out in the great work of praying and caring for the church plant, the planter and the planting team.
- 8. Enlist Supporting 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 Sending Church should take a lead role in helping the planter develop a team of Supporting Churches to join in this kingdom work through prayer, participation and providing for the plant's various needs.

**9. Celebrate and commission your planter publicly.**

The Sending Church has the unique privilege of celebrating and commissioning the church planter as they launch them to this new work. Take this as a great opportunity to communicate to your congregation what God has done and to 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 to help the planter walk through the tactical aspects of church planting.