



Where to find potential planters

Future leaders do not simply appear; they are discovered and developed. Your church provides fertile soil for the discovery of future leaders and some of the best training ground for their development. For this to happen, current leaders must assume the responsibility for both recognizing and exhorting young leaders to the vital work of church leadership.

Here are 6 qualities to look for in potential church planters:

God calls a vast array of individuals to join Him in planting new faith communities across the globe. It's not just the outwardly sharp and apparently gifted people that God uses. It takes all kinds of people to reach all kinds of people. Having said that, if we are to be intentional about seeking out those who might be strong church planters, we would do well to start by looking for these critical characteristics:

1. Are they a starter and/or risk-taker?
2. Do others naturally follow them?
3. Do they value working with a team?
4. Do they relate well with those outside church?
5. Are they a good communicator?
6. If married, does their spouse support them?

Here are 5 places to look for potential planters within your church:

1. Look among those who lead their families well

If a father in your church leads his wife and children well, he already has a strong foundation for shepherding others well. How could you encourage these men to extend their influence by shepherding others?

2. Look among those who lead small groups well

Small groups can be a lot like small congregations. If you see someone shepherding their small group well, making disciples and even multiplying, you should tell them what you see and encourage them to consider why God has gifted them in those ways.

3. Look among those who lead in your church well

Who in your church do others look to for humble, godly leadership? Is there a deacon, elder or staff member who shepherds others well? If so, encourage them and give them additional opportunities to lead. You never know how that may move them to consider pastoral ministry and/or church planting.

4. Look among those who lead businesses well

It may be obvious, but high-capacity leaders have a high capacity for leadership. Don't be afraid to approach a strong, godly leader in your church just because they're busy leading a business. They may be excited to use their experience and abilities for kingdom expansion.

5. Look among those who lead in the community well

Are there godly people within your congregation that the broader community looks to for leadership? Do you think anyone has ever challenged them to use their influence to start a new congregation? Help them catch a vision for how God could use them and then help them take steps toward church planting.

The Send Network's Multiplication Pipeline can help you discover and develop potential planters within your church. This simple, proven survey tool and online training system will help you identify and train missional leaders within your congregation to multiply the ministry of your church in your community and beyond.

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