

Church Planting Covenant Guidelines Pensacola Bay Baptist Association

Purpose: To establish a successful partnership, under the lead sponsorship of _____, and assisted by sponsoring partner churches listed on the signature page of the Church Planting Covenant, to facilitate the planting of a healthy, reproducing church with evangelistic passion to be known as _____ Church.

The partnership will incorporate mutual participation, trust and ownership. The general objectives which we will mutually agree and strive to accomplish are:

- Commit to working relationships relative to ministry, support of missions, doctrinal beliefs, and accountability.
- Participate in quarterly meetings for prayer, encouragement, and evaluation of progress on strategy and accomplishment of goals.

Responsibilities of Partners during the Church Planting Covenant Sponsor Church(s)

- Enlist a prayer team for the church planting effort.
- Assist in developing a strategic plan to plant the church.
- Enlist volunteers to assist with the church plant activities.
- Assist in the selection, supervision, mentoring and accountability of planter/team members.
- Participate in the financial support for planter (and teach members when applicable), including assistance with salary, housing and benefits.
- Provide a process for facilitating: membership, discipline, ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, accounting, insurance, and other legal requirements.
- Assist planter in implementing doctrinal teaching and practice in agreement with the current Baptist Faith & Message.
- Guide the church plant to financial support of missions through the Cooperative Program and other local, state, national, and international mission entities.
- Assist in providing and/or securing and maintaining meeting facilities/location for the church plant.

Association and or State Convention

- Mobilize prayer support for the church planting effort.
- Assist in enlisting, assessing, evaluation for the church planting process, training, and mentoring of church planter/team members.
- Assist in developing a strategic plan for the church plant and daughter churches.
- Assist with financial support and provide accountability for doctrine and missions support.

- Provide personal aid event evangelism training for the church planter and church plant leaders.
- Assist planter in submitting quarterly reports and provide copies to all partners in the covenant.
- Facilitate leadership training for church leaders.

Church Planter and/or Church Plant

- Cooperate with the sponsor church leadership in developing a strategic plan for the church plant.
- Commit to enthusiastically fulfill all the functions of the new church (i.e. prayer, evangelism, discipleship, worship, stewardship, missions, preaching/teaching the Word, fellowship, etc.)
- Participate in the training and coaching/mentoring provided by the sponsor church, association, and/or state convention.
- Commit to planting a Southern Baptist church as defined by a balance of:
 - a. Doctrine = Affirmation of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) doctrinal teachings and beliefs as expressed in the current "Baptist Faith and Message." Affiliation with the SBC must be stated in the constitution and bylaws of the church plant.
 - b. Participate in Acts 1:8 Kingdom Missions = Participate in mission causes through the Cooperative Program (It is suggested that a minimum of 8% Cooperative program and 2% to association of undesignated receipts be given) as well as extending missions involvement through state, national, and international missions offerings.
 - c. Association Membership = Meet the minimum continuing membership requirements of Article III of the Charter if Article I (Procedure for Admission of Churches) has been met.
- Incorporate an intentional plan to multiply/reproduce by starting new Bible study units, ministries and church plants.
- Submit a quarterly report to the lead sponsor church and copy all sponsor partner churches.
- Participate in personal and event evangelism training provided by the association and/or state convention.
- Submit the Annual Church Profile (ACP) at the appropriate time.

Church Planting Covenant

Pensacola Bay Baptist Association

The undersign parties enter into a covenant relationship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to plant a new church. All agree the final authority and responsibility for the actions and activities of this new church plant rests primarily with the lead sponsor church and the church plant congregation.

The Church Planting Covenant is a commitment of all the undersigned participants to provide support to the church plant for up to a maximum of ____ years from this date. If a participant is committing to a shorter time of support, this will be reflected in a brief statement in an attached addendum.

By the approval of the _____ Church (sponsor) by official Church action on _____ (date), a commitment was made to sponsor _____ (church plant) according to the guidelines and time frame specified in this Church Planting Covenant.

Sponsor Church Representative

Date

Date

Date

Church Planter/Pastor

Date

Association Director of Missions or Representative

Date