

WOODBURN BAPTIST CHURCH

Partnering with new Churches

This document proposes to define WBC levels and types of partnerships with, and assistance to, new church plants as part of the 20/20 vision and beyond. It is intended to streamline the process by which church planters called to this task by the Lord may be assisted with their efforts, to facilitate their application to the Deacon chairman.

This document is based on the belief that churches will come about through evangelism, given the imperative of the great commission.

Acts 9:31 “.....and with encouragement of the Holy Spirit, the church also grew in numbers.”

Levels:

- 1. Relationship:** (Phil 4:14-20) Woodburn Baptist Church agrees to serve as an active prayer partner in the development of God’s Kingdom via supporting outreach activities for the teaching and preaching of God’s Word. This is a general category and pertains to assistance ranging from, for example, Leadership Academy, literature acquisition, assistance by volunteers and other labor services as well as other non-financial support for the church plant and its staff by mentoring, shepherding, advising, and encouraging. This category also provides accountability for stipends released from conventions and/or associations, and carries out other activities as agreed upon by Woodburn Baptist Church and the sponsored church plant for the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Christ and making disciples for the Kingdom of God. To fulfil the scope of this commitment and to maintain the above mentioned accountability, the church will assign a liaison to manage the relationship between WBC and the church plant. If the cost of these helps exceeds the signature level of the benevolence system, this commitment level then becomes a financial one, and would be handled through the financial assistance channels on a case by case basis. (See 3c)
- 2. Leadership:** All items in Level 1 will also be provided for this level which pertains to a particular need for staff support, for example, if a church plant is struggling with administrative duties, or they need Sunday school teachers, a treasurer, or other similar staff functions. WBC may opt to supply this need from a list of volunteers with the appropriate skill sets who feel led to serve in this way. The term of this service would be determined by the need and the availability of volunteers.
The focus of this service should be for the skilled volunteer to train/mentor a candidate to assume the duties in question after the term is exhausted. This term should be renewable by mutual agreement between the volunteer and the leadership of the church plant if extended assistance is needed. The level of commitment is at the discretion of the volunteer. If WBC should opt to pay a professional to supply these services, or to send one of our own staff members, then the commitment becomes a financial one, and would be handled through the financial assistance channels. (See 3c)

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- 3. Sponsorship:** All items in Levels 1 & 2 will also be provided for this level which provides financial assistance to the church plant, which can take 3 forms:
 - a.** Total commitment: this is an extension of the church, where-in all costs are absorbed.
 - b.** Partial commitment where-in the monies are a contribution to a consortium of partners that together support the church plant.
 - c.** Other commitment where-in the monies are disbursed as needed on a case by case basis, or based on an agreement outlining the expenses to be covered.

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Procedure:

1. **The Church planter**, through prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, should prepare and submit the following to the deacon chair as outlined on the application to be submitted:
 - a. Prepare a statement outlining their divine call. Included must also be a statement of their faith and conversion experience. This should be reviewed by the deacon body and the applicant must be interviewed (similar to the vetting process based on 1 Timothy 3:1-13 we use for ordaining pastors and deacons). If not approved, the church planter (applicant) is informed and given the cause. If approved, the application is forwarded to the Church Planting Sub-Committee.
 - b. Select partnership level above that they feel led to use, or define another model (here we recommend reading the book of Acts!)
 - c. Organize a “Core Group” or “Launch Team”
 - d. Identify an area and/or demographic group they are led to reach.
 - e. If requesting financial assistance, prepare an estimated budget.
 - f. State the time frame they expect starting their planting efforts (this date could be in the past)
2. **The Church Planting sub-committee (see appendix) then reviews the document:**
 - a. If approved but funding is not requested, the Church Planting sub-committee takes the application to the next possible Family Meeting for church presentation.
 - b. If approved, but the level of financial support is higher than their discretionary funds; they will forward the packet to the Budget and Finance Committee for assessment.
 - c. If not approved, the church planter (applicant) is informed and given the cause.
3. **Budget and Finance Committee:**
 - a. The B&F Committee will review the packet and make an assessment for full approval, partial approval or disapproval based on the Woodburn Baptist Church yearly budget. They may also elect to engage the Church Planting Network, and follow their procedures as needed.
 - b. If approved by the B&F Committee; they will present their findings to the church body for a vote for financial support, not to exceed 36 months, after which time the church planter may re-apply and re-start the process if necessary.
 - c. The B&F Committee may at their discretion contact the “Church Planting Network” and/or other benefactors for their assistance with location the necessary funds.

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4. **Accountability to liaison/WBC:** James 5:16 says: “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”
- a. The applicant must sign agreement to abide by the included code of conduct.
 - b. The applicant agrees to the following accountability covenant (as a minimum):
 - i. Monthly contact/report to the appropriate liaison via report form
 - ii. Annual report regarding implementation of the originally approved plan.
 - iii. Annual visit to WBC if possible, or liaison may travel or skype as last resort.
 - c. The church planter must also submit a report to the Church Planting sub- committee on or before September 1st of each year in order to maintain their financial support from Woodburn Baptist Church.
 - d. The church planter is encouraged to participate in an annual marriage retreat and other annual training conference/retreat
 - e. Weekly accountability to core group.
 - f. Attendance to weekly staff meeting is encouraged if geographically possible.
 - g. Core Group (at least 2 individuals) contact information should be given to liaison/WBC.

5. Responsibilities of the Liaison

- a. Church planter spiritual development:
Matthew 7:22-23 - On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’
- b. Accountability for strategy and development of Church Plant
- c. Church planter personal status
 - i. Balance between Ministry & Family
1 Timothy 3:5 – For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church?
 - ii. Sexual/Relational Purity

Appendix: The personnel comprising the Church Planting sub-committee should possess the following qualifications:

- a. Be a WBC member for no less than one year.
- b. Have a heart for church planting or be a current liaison, with preference given to the liaison.
- c. The WBC senior pastor should serve as an advisor.
- d. Sub-committee must include at least one WBC deacon.
- e. The sub-committee to be comprised of 5 to 7 members.
- f. The sub-committee shall include the Missions committee chairperson.

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- g. The term of service is 3 years.
- h. The members to be selected by the Nominating Committee following the above requirements.