

Multi-Plantation

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Greg Surratt, Seacoast Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC (www.seacoastchurch.org)

(Association of Related Churches)

To be a successful church planter, the leader must be a gifted *teacher*, whereas to be a campus pastor you need a gift of *leadership*.

A few thoughts about innovation:

1. **Most innovation is desperation in a fancy package.** We hit a painful place, we hit a stopping point, we cry out to God, and then we have innovative ideas. Our worship style grew out of a painful place, and ARC was the same.
2. **Trust your gut unless you've been wrong a lot.** Demographic studies are wonderful, but sometimes you have to go with your guts. God wants to speak to us through prayer and laying on hands. Develop your ability to hear God.
3. **God plants his dream in those who are willing to pull the trigger.** A lot of people have big dreams. Make bold moves or you will make your last leadership moves soon. Everything is good for something, even if it is just as a bad example.
4. **If you overreach, sometimes big people will come along to help you clean it up.** Both multi-site and ARC go back to a vision night at Seacoast. The dream was to plant 2000 churches in my lifetime. Out of that, Byron Davis (Fisher-Price Toys) wanted to get on board with the big vision; Billy Hornsby also stepped up.
5. **If you don't try to control it, it just might outgrow you.** I had to step back in order to help ARC grow. I like to lead in meetings, but I also like to just be an irritant. So as I stepped back from organizational leadership and God has done wonders as a result.

Dave Ferguson, Community Christian Church, Naperville, IL (www.newthing.org)

(New Thing Network)

Church planting vs. multi-site: It's not an either/or, but both/and. There has been lots of advancement at both levels in the last 20 years.

Jesus' mission in Acts 1:8 challenges us to trade our life for something, going to the ends of the earth. We have to be about reproducing leaders, campuses, churches and networks.

Our dream is to be a catalyst for a movement of church planting networks. Our goal is 200 over the next three years. In our leadership residency program we give 6-12 months of experiencing a reproducing church, and then send them out to do their own.

The future is in the new. New churches grow 23 times faster in the first years than established churches, with four times the number of conversions.

Four tensions:

1. **New vs. established.** We need to figure out how to handle things when someone leaves. We can either bless them or be all ticked off about it. We need to have a strong bias toward the new.
2. **Edge vs. center.** We need to value edge more than the center where it is safe with lower risk. Innovation happens on the edge.
3. **Going vs. staying.** We need to have a bias toward going.

4. **Lost vs. found.** Our theme is “Helping people find their way back to God.”

Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church, Seattle, WA (www.marshillchurch.org)
(Acts 29)

We use a three-pronged approach:

1. **Mars Hill Church.** After humble beginnings and years that were not lucrative, our third site took off. I was driving to 3 locations. The church consolidated to one location, grew to 5 services, then had to go multi-site again. We went to video venues and now have 10 services 7 locations, live simulcasts between campuses.
2. **Acts 29 church-planting network.** When you get to 7 church plants you need a church planting system. After that point you have to think about recruiting—building a good pipeline, and assessment—which is key, along with fundraising, core gathering, coaching. We are 200 churches in the U.S. with 300 applicants in the assessment process and expansion overseas.
Our 3 distinctives are *the message*: Reformed theology (boxers-not-briefs Calvinists), *the men*: male elder governed, and *the mission*: church-planting churches. Each church gives at least 10% to church planting. We work across denominational lines. The City is our social networking tool for mutual coaching and learning.
3. **TheResurgence.com** is one of the top 5 Christian blogs in the world for theology and cultural commentary. We also do free conferences and publish books.

You can't confuse your visions. We keep the 3 missions distinct.

Mars Hill is a church reaching the city. Acts 29 is focused on church planting.

The Resurgence is for resourcing, conferencing and content.