

Church Multiplication

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For additional resources from Innovation³ visit learnings.leadnet.org

Billy Hornsby, Association of Related Churches, Baton Rouge, LA (www.relatedchurches.com)
Church Planting and Multi-Site

We want to make church a place where unchurched people come and get their questions answered, and want to come back.

God loves the little boats as much as he loves the big ships because they have fishermen in them. It's the job of both to catch fish.

ARC tries to isolate the principles that will help you to replicate this experience in your church plants. It provides a model, resources and a church planting culture to surround and support.

Some common denominators are being relevant, being loving, but also serving that community with all your heart.

Some characteristics of churches that keep them from growing:

1. Legalism – you cannot expect to reach the unchurched community with legalism in the pulpit. It's a lack of grace, condescending, talking down to the congregation.
2. Pastors are out of touch with the needs of the people in the community.
3. Being cliquish, clannish
4. Financial control by the pastor

Helping the unchurched to understand the gospel is key. When people they walk in they should find excellence, acceptance, relevance, hope, the possibility of improving, love.

Churches that do this can't find enough buildings to house them.

Matt Hannan and Bill Heck, Northwest Church Planting Center, Vancouver, WA
(www.churchplanter.com)

Church Plant or Multi-Site?

Our answer to the question whether to church plant or multi-site is: *Let's do both!*

Top 10 reasons why churches fail:

Problems with the planter—

1. Not prepared
2. Not called
3. Not assessed
4. Not trained
5. Not coached

Problems with the plant--

1. Not ready, too early
2. Not committed – time and money
3. Not defined – need agenda harmony
4. Not funded – critical mass
5. Not trained – what to expect, goals

Don't do multi-site...

1. Unless you are called; don't just copy a trend.
2. Unless you can deal with your ego.
3. Unless you are all talking about the same thing.
4. Unless you have adequate leaders in place.
5. As a tool to build community.
6. Unless you are really clear on your mission and vision.
7. Until you have assessed the costs.
8. Unless you are ready to devote time to training.
9. Unless you acknowledge the technical challenges.
10. To save money, especially on buildings.

Steve Robbins, Vineyard Leadership Institute, Westerville, OH

www.vineyardcolumbus.org/resources/vli

Church Planting Vineyard Style

The Vineyard movement as a whole has a 7-step process for church planting:

1. Make sure you have the pastor's endorsement.
2. Have a strong record of serving the church.
3. Go through a hefty assessment of the essential qualities that must be in place.
4. Coaching
5. Remediation of any weak skills or spiritual disciplines, marriage
6. Permission from the regional coordinators
7. Planning stage

6 phases within the planning stage:

1. Training
2. Preparation for church planting: get a coach
3. Planning for church planting: demographics, timeline
4. Process of church planting: develop skills and build a team
5. Procedures: covering the business side of church, finances, print, web site
6. Launching