

EXAMPLE of Commitments and Communication

(Shared with Chorus Church as we prepared to plant Creation Church)

I. Principles for Multiplying our Church

- **Planting is biblical and not optional.**

We're called to plant. By God's grace, we'll look to plant every two years. This plant puts us on that timeline. God is free to alter this timeline, but this is how we are proceeding.

- **Faith is always required and God blesses this.**

No parent is ever completely ready to have a child. This is true of churches. We can't wait until we're completely ready, because it won't happen. We step out in faith as a congregation. Without faith, it's impossible to please God (Heb. 11).

- **We must develop the people God brings us.**

God knows what we need and who we need and is faithful to provide. As much as possible, we want to send leaders that have been developed from inside the church. This enables us to truly accurately assess, coach, and care for the teams we send. This also gives us a genuine partnership with the new churches.

- **The parent sacrifices for the child. Not the other way around.**

We don't give the baby the leftovers. We give our best. This includes leadership, team members, and finances. We strive to serve our plant and our planters and not ask them to serve us. This means we look for what they truly need and try to provide it.

- **A healthy parent is important.**

While we give our best, we also make sure that the mother church remains healthy. This means we launch carefully and consistently, but not too quickly or too often. We will sacrifice, but we cannot drain our leadership or resources. Every 2 years is our current goal. This may expand as God blesses Chorus. We'll see!

- **The baby determines when it will be born**

While we have a timeline, we give God the freedom to alter it. If the daughter isn't ready, we don't push it. Once the baby is born, we don't abandon her, but care for her. If this means redirecting a planter after a failed plant, we do this and do right by the planting couple.

II. Team Commitment

- **Core Team**

We are looking to send a team of approximately five Core Team families from Chorus Church (ten adults).

- **Away Teams (Short Term Mission to plant)**

We will also send "Away Teams" to help. These are members of Chorus who will go and serve in some capacity, but are still part of Chorus. This may be people who serve with Kids or on the worship team once per month, etc. We hope to see 10-20 people who serve in this capacity.

- **Core Team Member Profile**

Core Team members are people who have demonstrated leadership and/or faithful service to Chorus. These are people with spiritual and emotional maturity who are resilient and ready to step out in faith. We will screen the core team, because failure to do so inevitably can be potentially harmful to the baby church.

• **Current Core Team Status**

The new team has **(number)** committed families who will go out from our church. (list families):
_____. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact: **name here**

III. Financial Commitment

We will support this church plant in the following ways:

1) Monthly support

We have budgeted **\$1000** per month from our general fund to Creation Church, beginning June 1. This commitment will extend for two years for a total of **\$24,000**

2) Team support

The people who go with the planters are faithful and committed to our church. That also means they give financially. So...when they go with the plant, their dollars go with them. This amount will likely be at least **\$3000** per month in tithes, for a total of **\$36,000** the first year, or **\$72,000** over two years.

3) Startup Expenses

We will likely provide some startup expenses in the amount of **\$10,000**. We will provide startup equipment such as our Trailer. Total value of at least \$5000

Summary

Total financial commitment of our church will be approximately **\$106,000** over **2 years**.

IV. Letter to Congregation

Below is a letter that we sent to our congregation regarding the plant:

Dear Friends,

I will be updating the congregation this Sunday about some exciting plans for next year, but I wanted to communicate this to you first. You know that our church is a church plant. We were sent out by the Christian and Missionary Alliance and New Heights Church in Washington State to step out in faith and come to a new area and start a new church. Here we are one year later and look what God has done! More than two hundred people gather each week to connect with God and each other. Many people connect in groups each week. Several have made commitments to Christ. God is blessing us.

But as the Bible says, "To whom much is given, much is required." (Luke 12:48) As we continue to grow, we are also called to send people out to start new works. Our dream is to be a church that "gives itself away" by planting new churches. This is what the Bible tells us to do (see Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). That dream is coming true. Pastor _____ joined us as a seasoned church planter with plans to plant again. We worked together this last year with the idea that he would lead our first daughter church within two years of our launch. Well... that day, Lord willing, will happen in about a year, on our two year birthday! We are looking to send the _____ to launch a new church in _____ on (date)_____. God is good!

I've tried to anticipate some of the questions you may have:

1) Why plant a new church?

It's biblical and it's smart. Church plants reach more people than any other method. Think about it...20 people can become 200 people in a year. That's pretty good Kingdom Math.

2) What's the name of the church and how will it be supported?

The new church will be called "_____." The Christian & Missionary Alliance (who support us!) is providing much financial support, which will include _____, plus start up costs. We will also participate financially.

3) What's the timeline? Pastor X will move on site and begin to form the team during this next year while still attending our church. Once the team is formed, they will do community outreach and launch groups on site, with plans to launch services within the next 18 months.

4) Who will be on the team?
(Describe team)

5) Will we still see the (planting family)?

Absolutely! Though John begins working on the plant this summer, he'll still worship with us through most of this next year. As the team forms, they will worship at Chorus as well (until next year).

6) Is everything okay with.....?

(If there are any "elephants in the room," address them here. Unless the planting culture is ingrained, people may suspect that something is wrong and fill in the gaps on their own.)

7) What will happen with staff at our church?

Describe staffing plan and assure congregation of stability in the midst of planting.

9) How can I help?

Please pray. As we pray, the next steps will emerge. Two years ago, Chorus had no people. It didn't exist. One year ago, we had five families. Now we have more than two hundred people connecting with God and each other each week. Think about what might happen in Menifee one year from now! The Kingdom of God keeps growing.... and we get to have a part in it. Pretty cool. You probably have more questions. Feel free to chat with John or me about any of this.