

# **Possible Guidelines for the Sponsor /New Church Relationship**

(A tool for the sponsor church in developing their own guidelines)

## **Relationship**

1. The new church is a part of the sponsor church.
2. The sponsor church and the new church have a mentor or coaching relationship which is accomplished through regular meetings between the pastor and or staff member assigned and the church planter.
3. Communication is accomplished through regular meetings with the sponsor church  
\*Missions Team and selected leaders from the new church.

## **Membership**

1. All membership of the new congregation is in the sponsor church. Upon joining the new church one becomes a member of the sponsor church.
2. The sponsor church keeps a separate membership roll for the new church. The new church maintains records of its own membership.
3. The new church clerk gives the sponsor church clerk full information about each person who presents themselves for membership.
4. Membership transfer is made by the new church clerk and the sponsor church clerk will make formal adjustments to the official records. The sponsor church clerk notifies the new church when the process is complete.
5. Members of the sponsor church Mission Team who join the new church will be replaced in order to avoid a conflict of interest.
6. Members of the new church are not eligible to vote in the sponsor church business session.
7. Persons who transfer membership from the sponsor church to the new church or from the new church to the sponsor church will do so according to adopted procedures.
8. Persons received into membership by the new church must meet the essential membership requirements of the sponsor church.

## **Calling a Pastor**

1. If a pastor is called before a congregation is formed, the sponsor church Mission Team serves as the pastor search committee. The sponsor church pastor, Associational Director of Missions and the State Convention Representative will work with the committee to find the church planter.
2. If a core group exists, members of the core group will be involved in the Pastor Search Committee along with the Mission Team from the sponsor church.
3. The prospective pastor is approved by; The Pastor Search Committee, the Sponsor Mission Team, the new church, the sponsor church, and the \*\*Strategic Planning Team.

\* Mission Team can be interchanged for Mission Committee, Mission Council, Mission Development Council

\*\* Strategic Planning Team consists of New Church Pastor, Sponsor church(s) representation, Association(s) representation and State Convention Church Starter.

## **New Church Pastor Relationship**

1. The new church pastor is an associate to the sponsor church pastor.
2. The duties of the new church pastor are to develop the new church.
3. The new church pastor is responsible to the new congregation, the sponsor church pastor, the sponsor church Mission Team and the Strategic Planning Team.
4. The new church pastor serves as moderator of the new church.

## **Officers and Ministers**

1. The new church will not have officially recognized deacons until it is constituted as a church outside the umbrella of the sponsor church.
2. All officers and leaders of the new church shall be nominated and elected by the new church after consultation with the sponsor church Mission Team.
3. Additional paid staff will be discussed with and approved by the sponsor church Mission Team and the Strategic Planning Team.

## **Doctrine**

1. The Bible shall be the authority in all matters of faith and practice.
2. The Baptist Faith and Message is the accepted position concerning Baptist doctrine.
3. The sponsor church Mission Team will be informed when a doctrinal question arises in the new church.

## **Ordinances**

1. The new church pastor shall administer the two ordinances of the New Testament church which are baptism and the Lord's Supper.
2. New Testament baptism will be administered to all who join by baptism according to the approved membership guidelines.

## **Finances**

1. The new church, the sponsor church Mission Team, and the Strategic Planning Team will work together to prepare the annual budget.
2. The sponsor church will assist the new church in establishing a checking account and financial record within 120 days of the establishment of the New Church Start Covenant Agreement.
3. The new church budget will include a gift from the undesignated tithes and offerings for the Cooperative Program and the local association as a demonstration of their support of world outreach. (A suggested 7% to the Cooperative Program and 3% local Association)
4. Requests for assistance from one the State Baptist Conventions of Texas and/or the local association shall come from the sponsor church on behalf of the new church.
5. The New church will provide a monthly financial report to the sponsor church after they have taken responsibility fro their checking account.

## **Business**

1. The new church shall have regular conference meeting for the purpose of discussing the business of the church. *Roberts Rules of Order revised* will be the guide to conduct business.
2. The new church clerk will give a copy of the minutes to the sponsor church Mission Team.
3. The sponsor church will advise the new church on completed actions related to the new church with deliberate speed.

## **Facilities**

1. If the new church meets in the sponsor church facilities, the sponsor church Mission Team will provide a written building use policy stating the expectations regarding the use of the property. The policy will be administered by the Mission Team member or sponsor church staff member assigned the task.
2. If the new church meets in a space other than sponsor church property a consensus of the church meeting in that property shall come from the sponsor church Mission Team and the Strategic Planning Team.

## **Purchase of Property and Buildings**

1. The sponsor church will purchase all property and buildings for the new church and held by the sponsor church until the new church constitutes and incorporates.
2. The sponsor church shall consider signing a promissory note on behalf of the new church for the purchase of property and building loans.
3. Upon constituting the property and buildings shall formally and legally release to the new church.

## **Constitution**

1. The new church is considered ready for constituting into a church when it has developed sufficient financial responsibility and strength to be self supporting.
2. The new church should also have an adequate number of leaders who are spiritually mature to be self-sufficient.
3. It should have in place the documentation and organization to be self-governing.
4. The new church should have a self propagating strategy for starting new churches.

## **Policies**

Policies of the sponsor church, association and the chosen State Convention of Texas shall provide guidance for the new church until such time as they are ready to constitute.

## **Adoption and Agreement**

1. This document, including appropriate attachments, has been adopted in church conference by the sponsor church as attested below:
2. This document, including appropriate attachments has been adopted in conference by the new church as attested below:

SPONSOR CHURCH

NEW CHURCH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Consideration of an annual renewal of this agreement/covenant should be considered by the sponsor church Mission Team and the New Church.