



Partner Churches: A Strategic Pathway for Church Planting in the Metro District

Overview

As the Metro District continues to pursue its vision of planting churches, we recognize that this goal will only be achieved through shared ownership and Kingdom-minded collaboration. While some churches are called and equipped to be Sending Churches, most of our churches are not in a position to take on that level of responsibility alone.

To this end, we are introducing and inviting churches to consider becoming Partner Churches—local congregations that come alongside new church plants to provide spiritual, relational, and financial support. This collaborative model fosters unity, multiplies resources, and equips planters to thrive in the early stages of their work.

What Is a Partner Church?

A Partner Church is an existing church in the Metro District that intentionally supports a new church plant in a collaborative, supportive role. This is different from a Sending Church, which typically sends the church planter, provides a launch team, and assumes the majority of financial and logistical support.

Partner Churches are not expected to take on the entire responsibility for a plant. Instead, 3 to 5 Partner Churches will work together to support each new plant in a more sustainable and scalable way.

Key Roles of a Partner Church

Partner Churches are asked to:

- Pray regularly and specifically for a church plant and its leadership team
- Encourage and uplift the planter(s) through relational support and connection
- Develop a relationship with the planter and your congregation.
- Share resources, which may include equipment, space, coaching, or ministry tools
- Provide financial support, either through designated giving, special offerings, or incorporating the plant into the church's budget

This model allows churches of various sizes and capacities to participate meaningfully in church planting while strengthening the relational fabric of the district.

Process for Partnership

1. District Leadership Connections: Churches will be contacted by district leadership to assess interest in becoming a Partner Church.
2. Connection with Planter: If interest is expressed, the district will facilitate a connection between the church and the prospective planter.
3. Discernment and Dialogue: Both parties will have an opportunity to meet, pray, and determine alignment in values, culture, and mission.

4. **Commitment and Planning:** If both the church and the planter agree to move forward, the District Church Planting Director will guide the process of defining expectations, duration, and support structures.

Why This Matters

This approach is not only practical—it is theological. Partnership in the gospel has always been part of the New Testament model:

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” — Philipians 1:4–5 (NIV)

Through partnership, we cultivate a Kingdom-first mindset in our churches, encouraging congregations to see themselves not only as local bodies but as participants in a greater mission. This shared vision strengthens our district, develops our leaders, and fosters long-term health for new and existing churches alike.

Commitment and Expectations

Partner Churches are encouraged to make a three-year commitment to the plant they are supporting. This timeframe allows for meaningful relational development, consistent support, and impactful contribution during the most formative years of a church’s life.

Every partnership will look a little different based on the needs of the plant and the strengths of the partnering church. The District Church Planting Director will assist in contextualizing these partnerships to ensure mutual clarity and shared expectations.

Conclusion

As the Metro District grows, this opportunity offers a sustainable and scalable way to multiply churches across our region. Most importantly, it invites all of our congregations into the mission of church planting—not as spectators, but as active participants in gospel advance.

We are not a district that plants churches, we are a church planting district! This is the spiritual DNA of Metro.

We are deeply grateful for every church willing to explore this opportunity. Your willingness to partner, pray, and give is laying the groundwork for generations of ministry to come.

For More Information – metrocm.org/church-planting