



CHURCH PLANTING GUIDE

ADVANCING GOD'S KINGDOM

The Fellowship of Christian Assemblies is a family of ministers and ministries connecting to advance God's Kingdom by the power of the Holy Spirit through the local church. We connect in our leadership, ministry, and missions to advance God's Kingdom together.

This guide is intended for **sending churches, church leaders, and prospective church planters seeking to understand** the process, assessment, and support involved in planting a new church with FCA support. FCA does not replace the sending church - we come alongside it to assess, equip, support, and strengthen church planting efforts.

> **Table of Contents**

Receiving Support from the FCA Church Planting Fund	03
Sample 2 Year Plan	04
Application for FCA Church Plant Resources	05
Preparation Check List	06
Request for Release of Church Plant Funding	07
Church Planting Resources & Assessment Centers	08

> Receiving FCA Support

The FCA has established a fund toward church planting, for assisting current FCA churches that desire to plant new churches. These **resources are made available** by a committee and are distributed in accordance with the following guidelines. The process for receiving support is divided into **three steps**. Finances will be committed to a project following the approval of committee after review of the application, assessment and two-year plan. **Applications** will be reviewed three times a year. March, July, and November. The deadlines to receive applications will be posted on the FCA website. FCA support can be spent for any aspect of the church plant project as long as it fits in with the two-year plan the planter submits.



01

Initial Requirements for Support

- Approval & financial backing from Pastor and sending church.
- Commitment/support letter from sending church
- Personal Assessment Test Completion (Myers Briggs or Simmons Personality Test & Spiritual Gifts test)
- Interview with the Regional Elders and assigned church Planting Assessor
- A minimum of 2 years prior ministry experience in a church (paid or unpaid position)



02

Developing a 2 Year Strategic Plan

- Submit a two-year plan outlining a clear path to successfully launch and establish a self-sustaining congregation. (See example on pg 4)
- Obtain commitment of a core group of supporters to begin a church plant. (Example: 25 adults who've committed to attendance, financial support, and serving)



03

Final Requirements for Support

- Confirmed mentor/coach relationship
- Reaffirmation of the sending church leadership to support and provide accountability to the new church planter.
- A plan in place for worship leadership and children's ministry.
- A meeting location with a signed lease/rent contract.
- A basic financial setup, including bank account, deposit and receipting process and appropriate internal controls. The accounts must be in the name of the church (not pastor) and depositing and spending should be in the responsibility of a trusted member.

> *Sample 2 Year Plan*

The failure to adequately prepare and plan has been identified as a primary cause of unsuccessful church plant projects. The objective of a two year plan is to help think through and resource the many complexities involved in starting new churches.

Here are the many elements to be thought through and documented in a two year plan:

Church Name, Motto, Theme, Statement of Purpose

Primary Method of Attracting New Attenders

- (Worship, evangelism, children's ministry, service to the community, etc.)
- What will make this new church stand out from existing churches?
- What will make people return on Sundays?

Legal Documentation

- This includes incorporation, bylaws, 501(c)3 if applicable. The bylaws should show clearly how the church will operate, major decision makers, and how new attenders will relate to the group as a whole. In many cases the newly planted church will operate for a season under the sending church's incorporation. There will need to be clear documentation that this is approved by the sending church.

Mentors & Coaches

- This would identify who has been recruited to give advice, support and counsel to the pastor and the church.

Strategic Goals

- Describe the various benchmarks to achieve in the coming two years. These serve as a target to strive for, a reason to celebrate, and a means to identify when the work is off course.

A Plan to Make Disciples

- To succeed, the church must be doing more than gathering crowds, even large crowds. The church is supposed to be a place where people learn to walk faithfully with and serve God.

A Financial Plan

- This includes both personal and church finances. Clearly outline how the pastor's salary will be supported, how much funding is needed prior to launch, and where those funds will be raised. Describe how the church will cover essential expenses such as meeting space, equipment, and outreach. Additionally, include a clear policy for the collection, handling, and distribution of funds.

> Application for Church Plant Resources

ABOUT YOU

Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Preferred Contact Method: _____

ABOUT YOUR HOME CHURCH

Current Church Attending: _____
Phone: _____ Church Pastor: _____
Church Address: _____

SENDING CHURCH IF DIFFERENT THAN ABOVE

Church Address: _____
Church Pastor: _____ Phone: _____

Please describe the support you expect to receive from your sending church, including personnel, start up core group, finances, etc.

> Preparation Check List

- Complete Required Assessments (Myers-Briggs or Simmons, and a Spiritual Gifts Test)
- Meet with Regional Elders and Church Planting Pastor to Discuss Your Results
- Obtain a Recommendation from the Regional Elders

Please Include the Following:

- Financial Request (from the FCA with the primary use of funds you are requesting)
- 2 Year Strategic Plan



Thank You

The FCA Church Planting Committee thanks you for taking time to go through the process to receive support from the FCA Church Planting Fund. We know you have spent a lot of time spent preparing.

> Request for Release of Church Plant Funding

THOSE COMMITTED TO CHURCH PLANT SUCCESS

Who has agreed to serve as your church planting coach/mentor(s)?

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Who has agreed to serve as your church planting team?

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Where will you begin your meetings? (Attach a copy of lease/rental agreement)

Location Address: _____

Service Time: _____

Start Date: _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following information:

Bank Name of Church Accounts: _____

Outline the process for handling offerings, including collection and deposit procedures, identify the individual responsible for financial oversight and bill payment, and explain how donor contributions will be tracked and receipted.

> Church Planting Resources & Assessment Centers

The following are several of the church planting assessment centers available.
(Information contained is from each individual center, not from an unbiased source.)

A fee may be required for the applicant. There are other websites/organizations that have assessment centers. Listed below are prominent ones.

Assessment Centers

Association of Related Churches (ARC)

www.relatedchurches.com
(205) 981-4566
info@relatedchurches.com
PO Box 78003 Baton Rouge, LA 70837-8003

Vineyard USA Church Planting

www.vineyardusa.org
(281) 313-8463
PO Box 2089 Stafford, TX 77497

Tools, Assessment Test Info, Training & More

- **Exponential : A Church Planting Channel with Tools & Training**
exponential.org/channel/churchplanting/
- **griffithcoaching.com**
Jim Griffith is a ministry coach with a church planting specialty. This is one of the best websites, but most of the material must be purchased.
- **churchmarketingsucks.com**
Great blogs and articles on marketing and advertising for church planter/new breed church.
- **churchconsultations.com**
“Live seminars” available on this website for church planters.
- **Lighthouse Christian Church : Church Planting Materials & Information**
LCCFDL.us/fca