



## CHURCH PLANTING TIPS

Adapted from a blog in CT Pastors by Aaron Damiani, rector of Immanuel Anglican Church, Chicago, IL titled "My Top 10 Church Planting Tips: A new planter reflects on living a year of wise advice."

### Calling Out Potential in People... Ideas... and Ministries.

CREATING  
HELPING  
COACHING  
INSPIRING  
STRATEGIZING  
ELEVATING  
SERVING

- 1. SUSTAIN HIGH LEARNING AGILITY.** Mark Reynolds, VP of leadership programs at Redeemer City to City  
*High learning agility = mental and ministry adaptability. Don't be so enamored with a particular ministry model or idea that when it does not work in the real world, you get embarrassed, defensive and discouraged. Find good coaches... learn from your mistakes... constantly adapt to the conditions.*
- 2. GO SLOW TO GO FAST** Stewart Rich, Sr. Pastor, Church of the Resurrection, Wheaton IL  
*There are many faithless ways to generate activity in the early days. However, building community is slower than you want it to be; it takes time to develop trust, grow as a leader, and wait on the Lord together in prayer. However, once the community is in place, you have an entire team with gifts and energy that take the church so much farther than you can on your own.*
- 3. GATHER A LAUNCH TEAM INSTEAD OF A CORE GROUP** Al Barth, church planting veteran, Redeemer City to City  
*A church plant core group feels like leaders who make executive decisions; hence, they are difficult to leave (no end date), difficult to lead (more like hired hands) and difficult to get people to join such a high-commitment group. A launch team is more like an ever-expanding party, where there is a winsome urgency to gather others, take risks, and be creative together. A launch team is also easier to leave, because the launch of the church gives the team a defined off-ramp.*
- 4. JESUS BUILDS HIS CHURCH, SO STOP WATCHING THE DOOR & START FEEDING YOUR PEOPLE.** Mark Bergin, Lead Pastor, The Painted Door  
*Who God brings and who God does not bring will surprise you. Don't ask, "Why wasn't \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ there tonight?" or "Why doesn't X or Y type of person come, and how can we change that?" Since Jesus builds His church, getting certain people in the door isn't your responsibility. You are called to feed, lead and commission the people that Jesus has already brought.*
- 5. FINDING WORSHIP SPACE IS AN UPHILL SPIRITUAL BATTLE; START PRAYING.** Kevin Bruursema, New Life Community Church  
*Worship space is hugely influential to the development of your church, and finding the right venue can be as much a spiritual battle as it is a logistical one.*
- 6. IDENTIFY YOUR MOTIVES FOR CHURCH PLANTING, AND BE VULNERABLE ENOUGH TO COMMUNICATE THEM.**  
*Good leaders build trust by communicating their intentions. Unless people know your story, they are likely to project negative motives on your intention to plant a church. Leaders should start with "why" instead of starting with "what." Every potential launch team member and supporter will ask (even if they don't say it out loud), "What's the **real** reason you are doing this?"*
- 7. COLLABORATE WITH YOUR FELLOW PLANTERS AND PASTORS; DON'T COMPETE WITH THEM.** Tim Keller, Center Church  
*The key is your heart's desire to see the Kingdom grow in your city and to reach the whole city more than about increasing your own tribe and church kingdom. Fight the temptation to posture. If you don't collaborate, you miss an opportunity to aid other churches and you lose what other pastors could give to your church.*
- 8. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR MONEY AND PEOPLE.** Aaron Wojnicki, founding Pastor, Faith Community Church, Prospect, KY  
*Ask senior pastors of supporting churches directly for money and people. Having resources of people and money make church planting possible, not easier. People and money are like oxygen; they are two essential components for your church to stay alive and thrive. You are more likely to have a strong, healthy start if you humble yourself and ask for both without any shame or hesitation.*
- 9. BE FLEXIBLE WITH HOW PEOPLE GRAPPLE WITH YOUR VISION.** Daniel Hill, founding Pastor, River City Community Church  
*Be patient with people who over-engage or under-engage with your vision for the church. This involves taking the risk of giving people room to disagree, and give them the choice of self-selecting out rather than making that choice for them. Strong leaders need freedom to disagree with you and share their ideas, knowing that you take them seriously. And some need time and space to decide whether or not they will join you. They need to be able to "taste and see" without a firm commitment.*
- 10. FOLLOW JESUS ON THE JOURNEY HE HAS PLANNED FOR YOU, AND INVITE YOUR PEOPLE ALONG.**  
*When God calls you to plant a church, He intends for you to go on a journey with Him. The beginning and the end of this journey are not results, but the love of God in Christ. Church planting is uncomfortable and dangerous work. When Jesus calls you to take it up, He intends to draw near in previously unknown ways. If you're willing to respond in your soul to where God is calling you, you can take people with you. The other side of the coin is: Don't commission yourself to a journey that belongs to someone else. Your journey is your own and will be partially discovered as God allows it to unfold.*

