

## **Levels of Church Planting Partnership**

When it comes to church planting the biblical paradigm is clear: churches plant churches. Every new church start needs the support of other churches if it is going to thrive. At the same time, churches may support new churches at varying levels of partnership. While this is not an exact science, the following proposal provides a way to conceive of varying levels of intentional investment. The four levels include: sending church, partnering church, supporting church, and helping church.

### **Sending Church**

- There will typically be only one sending church though it is conceivable that more than one church could partner together and be considered sending churches.
- This church commissions the church planter or church planting team.
- They have made a significant investment training, discipling, and preparing the lead planter and core team.
- This church will share a very close DNA with the new church plant theologically and methodologically.
- This church will strategically pray for the new plant.
- This church will make a large, multi-year financial commitment.
- This church is willing to send a large number of members in order to provide a strong foundation for the new plant.
- This church will provide coaching on an intentional and need basis.
- This church will offer consistent encouragement, accountability, and support for the leadership of the plant.
- This church will take the lead in sending teams to assist in missional efforts for the new plant.

### **Partnering Church**

- This church will share a close DNA with the new church plant theologically and methodologically.
- This church will strategically pray for the new plant.
- This church will make as large of a financial commitment as possible for multiple years.
- This church will be willing to send some of their members to join the new work.
- This church will provide some coaching on an intentional and need basis.
- This church will offer encouragement to the leadership of the new church.
- This church will send a team to assist in missional efforts on a need basis.

### **Supporting Church**

- This church will share a similar DNA with the new church plant theologically and methodologically.
- This church will strategically pray for the new plant.
- This church will make a financial commitment, preferably for multiple years but not as substantial as a partnering or sending church.
- This church may or may not send a team to assist in missional efforts as needed.

### **Helping Church**

- This church will make a one-time gift but not be a regular supporter.
- This church will make some effort to pray for the church.