



*My church  
might be  
interested in  
giving birth or  
sponsoring a  
new church.*

*What do we do  
next?*

*Equipping leaders with both knowledge and skills to move toward successful church starts.*

**This presentation is given to POTENTIAL "Mother Churches" in our fastest growing population centers.**


*{In areas without population growth, but a significant 'under served' population exists, the early growth slides are replaced with slides emphasizing Percepts report of "no faith involvement" and the need to reach the 'lost sheep' and 'prodigal daughters and sons.'}*

**Our Conference Strategic Initiative is to start at least 3 Mother-Daughter and 2 Extension Campus each year.**


**This is YOUR Invitation to be a Mother Church**



**Churches Who Plant New Churches. Who Plant New Churches... Who Plant New Churches... Who Plant New Churches...**



**Bob Crossman**  
Arkansas Conference Minister for Congregational Advancement and New Church Starts



**Part of my responsibility is to visit the fastest growing areas of the state, and explore the possibility of starting a new church in that community in response to the changing demographics.**

**Is your community among the fastest growing in the state?**



**Arkansas' Largest Cities**

CITY	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Since '80
Little Rock	158,461	175,727	183,133	184,564	16%
Fort Smith	71,636	72,798	80,268	82,481	15%
Fayetteville	36,608	42,247	58,047	66,655	82%
Springdale	23,458	29,941	45,798	60,096	156%
Jonesboro	31,530	46,535	55,515	59,358	88%
N.Little R.	64,388	61,829	60,433	58,803	-8%
Pine Bluff	56,636	57,140	55,085	52,693	-7%
Conway	20,375	26,481	43,167	51,999	155%
Rogers	17,429	24,692	38,829	48,353	177%
Hot Springs	35,781	32,462	35,750	37,847	5%
Jacksonville	27,589	29,101	29,916	30,367	10%
Texarkana	21,459	22,631	27,812	30,006	40%
Bentonville	8,756	11,257	19,730	29,538	237%
W.Memphis	28,138	28,259	27,666	28,181	0%
Benton	17,717	18,177	21,906	25,673	45%
Russellville	14,518	21,260	23,682	25,520	76%
<b>Paragould</b>	<b>15,248</b>	<b>18,540</b>	<b>22,017</b>	<b>23,775</b>	<b>56%</b>
Sherwood	10,423	18,893	21,511	23,149	123%
Van Buren	12,020	14,979	18,986	21,249	77%
Cabot		8,319	15,261	21,039	est. 200%

**POPULATION In Paragould's 72450 Zip Code:**

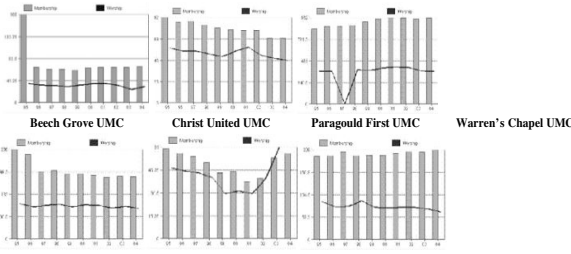
In the 1990's the population grew by 18%  
Since 2000, the population has grown an additional 5%  
**An increase from 26,800 to 33,300 since 1990!**

In the next five years, Paragould will grow another 5% to 34,850  
**Ranked #11 in the fastest growing population centers in Arkansas.**

**How About UM Membership & Worship attendance in the Paragould**

These charts show worship attendance 1995 - 2004



CHURCH	1980	1990	2000	2005
Beech Grove UMC	48	32	36	35
Christ United 73	80	56	51	383
First Paragould	355	338	403	95
Griffin Memorial	149	113	102	61
Pruett's Chapel	52	40	32	30
Shiloh Paragould	80	96	74	15
Warren's Chapel	30	24	26	13
Wood's Chapel	35	20	13	15
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>714</b>

**This chart shows UM worship attendance since 1980. Are these numbers accurate?**

Is all of Paragould  
in church on Sunday?

**Not yet!**

*An organization called Percept did a  
religious census in this part of the country.  
They found that in Paragould zip code,  
44% of the population (14,653) are STRONGLY  
involved, attending at least once per month.*

*Praise God!*



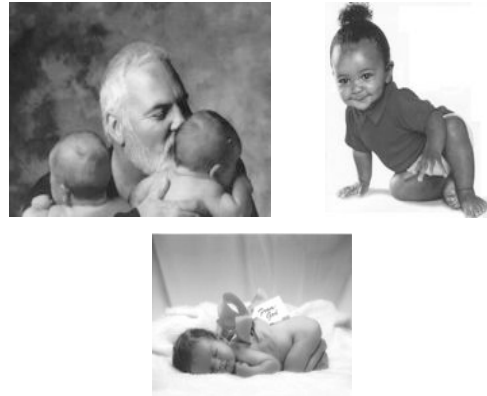
*But there are still lost sheep to be found,  
and prodigal sons & daughters to be welcomed home:  
25% (8,326) never attend worship*

## Conclusions?

With the population growing, all of our churches have room to redouble their efforts to reach the new residents, the lost sheep, and the prodigal sons and daughters surrounding them.

**Also,  
there might be an additional response...**

**Has your church  
ever thought about  
giving birth?**



**No, not that kind of birth**

**Has your church  
ever thought about giving  
birth to a new church?**



**You may not have thought about it,  
but it is pretty wonderful,  
perfectly natural, Biblical,  
and a United Methodist thing to do!**





## Healthy Churches Reproduce

Healthy Churches are in the process of:

- moving from a **maintenance** mode to a **mission** mode
- moving from an **inward** focus to an **outward** focus
- becoming *“a church alive in the grace of God, offering Christ, transforming lives, and changing the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.”*



## Healthy churches reproduce themselves in many ways.



The **Children's** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.

The **Youth** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.

The **Women's** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.

The **Missions** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.

The **Men's** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.

The **Music** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.

The **Worship** Ministry is looking for ways to multiply.



## Healthy Churches are welcoming churches.

They have a heart for the new resident, the de-churched, the unchurched, and the pre-Christian. They invite their friends to attend worship and Sunday School. They witness and celebrate new Professions of Faith.

In many ways... healthy churches reproduce themselves.

## You can often see this in the Adult Sunday School Classes...

- they have a passion to reach those who are not in any class  
AND
- adult classes have a history of sending missionaries to start a new daughter class to reach a new target group...
  - A class for newly married
  - A class for new parents
  - A class for parents of teens
  - A class for single parents
  - A class for empty nesters
  - A class for recently widowed



- In 1935 the pastor started the **Pastor's Class**...
- In 1945 the Pastor's Class started the **Ladies Class**...
- In 1955 the Ladies class started the **Couples Class**...
- In 1965 the Couples Class started the **Wesley Class**...
- In 1975 the Wesley Class started the **Fellowship Class**...
- In 1985 the Fellowship Class started the **Bible Class**...
- In 1995 the Bible Class started the **Aldersgate Class**...
- In 2005 the Aldersgate Class will start the \_\_\_\_\_...

## Healthy Churches Reproduce



## Historically, there was another way our churches reproduced...

In Wichita, Little Rock, Tulsa, Topeka, Lincoln, Houston, Columbia, Albuquerque, St Louis, and Baton Rouge...

From 1868 to 1968 our healthy churches were giving birth to new churches.



**Historically, our healthy Methodist Churches had a burning passion to give birth to new churches.**

**In the 1870's: if the community 10 miles away, had a Post Office but didn't have a Methodist Church... we sent our pastors to start one...**

*In the 1870's success was turning your 15 point circuit into a 20 point circuit.*

**In the 1950's, as the suburbs grew, the old downtown First UM Churches across the country intentionally gave birth to new churches on the edge of town, and called them St. Paul, Wesley, Trinity and Aldersgate UMC.**



**The missionary heart of Wesley, Coke, Asbury, Otterbein, Allen... is still beating... but not a fast as it once was.**



**Does that new church "missionary heart" beat inside of you?**



**It has been beating in Arkansas... but only ONE beat a year.**

Since the UMChurch was formed in 1968 we have started about 46 churches in Arkansas.

Many of these might be called 'pure' new church starts.

Thirty eight {83%} are still in ministry today.

They have witnessed 6,262 Professions of Faith!

They have 9,192 in worship every Sunday... {average of 242 per church}

**Why should we be starting new churches? Is it a good investment of our time and energy?**

Significantly, while these 38 active new churches only represent 5% of our churches, they account for 15% of our worship attendance in Arkansas, and in 2005 they accounted for 18% of our Professions of Faith, and in 2004 gave \$1,413,066 in apportionments - more than 12% of all apportionments received.

*{These new churches have given \$6,950,754 in apportionments in the past 5 years.}*

**These Arkansas numbers are typical of those across the country, for it appears that new churches receive more professions of faith, and have larger average worship attendance when compared to our older established congregations.**

While we have been starting new UM churches at the pace of about 1 per year, we have not been keeping up with the pace of population growth in Arkansas.



Since 1968 we have witnessed 1,000's of new neighborhoods but we have not started new churches in those neighborhoods.

We have also witnessed 1,000's of our neighborhoods change demographically but we have not started new faith communities to reach those new demographics.



So...the Arkansas Conference has decided it is time...

- to revive that missionary heart again
• to pick up the pace of our new church starts
• to invite our strong, healthy, vibrant churches to consider repeating that ancient process - giving birth to a new congregation to reach the new mission field that surrounds them.

Let me tell you the story of several of our newest churches...

Today, you are being invited to give birth to a new church. Will you, with God's help, give birth to a new UMC in town?



New Church - Fort Smith



New "Second Campus" Church - Van Buren



Old building finds new life at Van Buren

Van Buren church is launching second worship site. Adair's Note: This is the fourth and final installment in a series of articles about new church starts in Arkansas...



New Church - Cabot



Cabot welcomes plans for new UM church

Adair's Note: This is the second in a series of articles about new church starts in Arkansas. Cabot welcomes plans for new UM church...





## Strategies / Models for New Church Starts

The handout I've given you (pages 147 to 196) describes the various strategies in 10 groupings.

### How do you start a new church?

Parenting Launch of a Single-Site (Birthing, Mother-Daughter) Strategy	149
Single-Site (Parachute Drop) Strategy (usually initiated by the Annual Conference level)	151
Two Point / Three Point Charge Strategy (usually initiated at the local church level)	152
Mission Congregation Strategy (usually initiated at the Annual Conference level)	153

### Strategies for Starting New Faith Communities

Extension Campus or Second Campus Strategy (usually initiated at the local church level)	156
Satellite Strategy (usually initiated at the local church level)	160
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The two models  
that seem to be working best now:

- 1) The Extension Campus
- 2) The Mother/Daughter Model



Let's look at some of the basics about the  
**"The Extension Campus"**  
{also known as satellite, or second campus model"}

*here we go...*

### The EXTENSION CAMPUS or SECOND CAMPUS Model

- This is not actually a new church start, but it does reach out and establish a new campus to reach a new mission field.
- A parent church establishes a second campus 100 feet or 15 miles away.
- This allows the parent church to continue to grow and reach out into the community, often in spite of limited space and facilities at the "home" location.
- This model leverages the name and leadership of the main campus, and the talents of the Senior Pastor.
- A campus minister is hired, but in the beginning months the Senior Pastor preaches often, and continues to preach on a regular basis at both sites.
- The vision and "DNA" of the second campus is the same as the parent.
- The new campus name often reflects the main campus, "Central UMC East"
- The Conference may provide leadership training for the campus pastor, but little outside financial support is needed.
- There is no plan to become independent.
- The Van Buren, Arkansas story: Heritage & Mt Olive UMC
- The Gulf Shores UMC near Pensacola Beach, Florida is a wonderful example of this model. See the pastor's book: Fling Open the Doors: Giving the Church Away to the Community, by Paul Nixon, 2002, Abingdon Press

### Advantages of the Extension Campus:

- Basically this is the same church, with two campus.
- The extension site can more easily specialize in reaching a specific target audience, and does not have the pressure to offer "everything."  
*"Yes, we have \_\_\_ (AA, child care center, etc) at the main campus."*
- People can attend either and receive the same ministry and message.
- Shared leadership.
- Unified budget, thus the second campus feels like they can provide more ministries than a new church start.
- Since most or all of the start-up expenses are provided by the main campus, the Annual Conference can use it's funds to start additional churches in new locations across the state.

### Disadvantages of the Extension Campus:

- Jealousy from the parent if the "child" grows larger than the parent.
- Those who join the second campus may never feel a part of the parent, thus creating their own identity.
- Over time the vision of the second campus may change from the parent's vision.
- Often, after the founding pastor has moved, the churches sever ties, and you end up with two churches. (You might suggest a 36 month renewable relationship between the two locations.)



Let's look at some of the basics about the  
**"Mother/Daughter" Model,**  
and the lifecycle of the "birth process."

*here we go...*

## Mother Daughter Model Basics...

1. This model reclaims the New Testament model demonstrated by the Apostle Paul, and reclaims the model demonstrated in the early spread of Methodist churches across the United States.
2. This model begins when an existing healthy UM church decides to give birth to a new church. The purpose is to better reach a new 'mission field' in the community or in a nearby community.

### *Mother Daughter model continued*

3. The mother church is giving:
  - a. PEOPLE: The mother church should plan on sending a group of committed lay persons to be part of the new church, serving on the launch team.
  - b. DNA: The healthy DNA of the mother church will be duplicated in the new church.
  - c. MONEY: The mother church may be able to provide housing for the new pastor, office space, access to copiers, the gift of a computer, and possibly partial salary support for the new pastor. In most cases, this financial support is given in declining amounts, over a 36 to 48 month period.
4. The mother church asks the Bishop to appoint an additional pastor to the staff, with a title and job description something like- "New Church Pastor."

### *Mother Daughter continued*

5. This is NOT a land intensive way of starting churches. Land and construction are delayed for perhaps 5 to 7 years, allowing the new church to grow, and to be financially sound in order to support the future purchase of land and construction.
6. As the new church grows, its financial giving should increase while the supporting entities financial support would decrease.

## HAVE YOU TRIED THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER MODEL?

### **Bruce Baxter, the Missouri Conference Director of Congregational Advancement, lists 8 benefits to the Mother Church:**

1. It enables the Mother Church to reach people whom they would otherwise NEVER reach.  
*A typical UMC only retains 13% of her worship visitors. About 87% of your worship visitors never join, and slowly drift away. A new UMC in town gives us a second chance of welcoming that 87% into the faith.*

2. Giving birth to a new church is being obedient to God.

*Matthew 28:19 and Acts 13 give us the command and the model for making new disciples by sending our best people out to form new faith communities.*

3. It helps to insure that the Senior Pastor will stay at the mother church for at least 3 more years.

*The Senior Pastor needs to stay to lead the parenting church through the birth and recovery processes. Having some confidence that there will not likely be a change in the Senior Pastor, the mother church can then move forward with major plans,*

4. As the Mother Church watches the new church pastor work within the congregation, forming a leadership team, clarifying the mission, values, and core beliefs of the new church...

*It inspires the Mother Church to sharpen her vision and ministry plan too.*

5. The new church functions as the research department trying out new innovative ministry and methods.

*The Mother Church, observing the daughter, then copies those methods that are effective.*

6. As the new church pastor opens the door and begins to form launch teams for the upcoming new church, this allows people ‘on the fringes’ of the Mother Church to step up and become fully engaged.

*You may discover that the former Lay Leader, who has rotated off leadership in the Mother Church, now sees an opportunity to make a major contribution by serving as a leader in the new church... OR*

*You may discover that people sitting on your back pews, who are not interested in the routine of maintaining an established church, will be engaged by the difficult entrepreneurial challenge of ‘opening a second location.’*

7. You may discover that the new church will begin sending people to join the Mother Church!

*How does that work?*

*As the new church moves out on her own, begins her own worship and unique identity... she will probably be more cutting edge, more youthful, more ‘contemporary’ than the Mother Church.*

*The successful new church will generate many first-time worship visitors because she is working so hard with mass mailers, door hangers, telephone campaigns, radio ads, billboards, and word of mouth invitations. Those visitors who are more interested in worship that is more TRADITIONAL, will drift from the new church and begin to visit the Mother Church! Interesting!*

8. It gives the Mother Church an opportunity to ‘pay for her raising.’

*It is not unusual for your church to consider the possibility of giving birth to a new church... your church was once a new church herself.*

*Years ago, your church was started either by the entrepreneurial mission vision of an early circuit riding preacher or by the sacrificial gift of First Church when she encouraged a team of faithful believers to be New Church Missionaries on the edge of town.*

*Now, today, this church has the opportunity to repeat that ancient process - giving birth to a new congregation to reach a new mission field of people who do not have a church home.*

*In Arkansas, 25.4% of the population never attends worship, and an additional 32.2% are only somewhat involved with their faith... the fields are ripe and waiting for the harvest!*



**Why aren't more congregations giving birth to a new congregation, who in turn gives birth to a new congregation?**



**There is one primary reason.**



**FEAR!**

The caption reads:

*“This won't hurt a bit!”*

**And the fears can be at many levels.**

- fear of losing people
- afraid that half the church may go to the new church
- fear that people may like the new church more
- afraid of losing friends to the new church
- fear of failure - afraid that the new church will fail, reflecting poorly on the parent church, and reflecting poorly on the leaders who proposed it
- afraid of damaging the parent church
- afraid of losing key leaders to the new church
- afraid giving would go down in the parent church
- afraid new construction plans would be delayed

**We have to be honest about those fears.**

When First UMC Conway gave birth to Wesley 50 ago...

**Was it painless? No!**

**Did it hurt? Yes!**

Are more people in the kingdom now?

“Well, yes. But the birth process wasn’t easy.”

We have to be honest about those fears.

Rev. Norman Carter and Rev. Philip Hathcock both knew that a 2nd new church would affect First Church, but they had a kingdom perspective and supported sending their beloved retired pastor, Joel Cooper to be the new church pastor. Two years later, they sent their Senior Associate Pastor, Bob Crossman to follow Joel.

It worked. The Grace UMC was born.

Now, about ten years later, Grace UMC has almost 500 in worship.

When First UMC in Conway gave birth to Grace UMC...

Was it painless? No!

Did it hurt? Yes!

But because of their missionary heart, First Church has helped Grace to witness 200 new professions of faith!

**With the “Mother/Daughter model”  
what happens to the other churches in town?**

In Conway, we are looking at 3 years before the new church in 1994, and 4 years after the new church. The numbers were basically stable before, the ‘mother church’ declined 30, but citywide attendance is up 400.

**Conway UM Worship Attendance**

CHURCH	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
First UMC	621	620	626	630	630	600	613	600	600
Ebenezer	45	30	36	36	37	37	50	52	61
Wesley	120	125	115	113	120	134	130	130	129
Salem	115	120	125	127	130	139	145	150	165
Grace	0	0	0	44	88	148	234	315	343
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>1,298</b>

**Conway UM Professions of Faith**

CHURCH	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
First UMC	44	32	40	31	7	24	27	24	25
Ebenezer	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Wesley	4	7	3	8	2	2	0	13	9
Salem	1	6	2	2	1	16	2	8	13
Grace	0	0	0	10	12	15	29	24	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>

We have to be honest about those fears.

About 15 years ago, St. James UMC helped to give birth to a new church on the edge of town. Dr. John Miles took the new church pastor, Steve Coburn, visiting in the homes of St James members who lived in Maumelle. At each home, Dr. Miles said, “You are a member of Maumelle now. You need to worship where you live. I have brought your new pastor here to meet you.”

It worked. The Maumelle UMC was born.

Now, about ten years later, they are having 442 in worship!

When St James in Little Rock gave birth to Maumelle UMC...

Was it painless? No! Did it hurt? Yes!

But because of their missionary heart, St. James has helped Maumelle to witness 460 new professions of faith!

**In St. Louis, a new UMC gave birth to a new UMC.  
...both not only survived, they have thrived!**

Gateway Regional District, Missouri Annual conference

**Worship Attendance**

CHURCH	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Sunrise UMC	300	327	356	408	472	476	522	540
Morning Star UMC 3 miles	0	195	223	316	358	396	410	

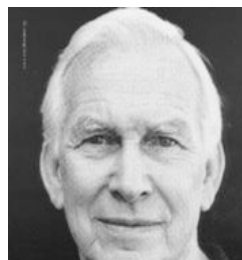
**Total Budget**

CHURCH	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sunrise UMC	338	407	448	590	653	700	665
Morning Star UMC 3 miles	0	?	219	372	825	703	

MOTHER CHURCH FOUNDING PASTOR (Sunrise UMC)  
Bruce Baxter (1995 to 2004) 573-441-1770 [bbaxter@moumethodist.org](mailto:bbaxter@moumethodist.org)

MOTHER CHURCH CURRENT LEAD PASTOR  
Jim Blue (2004-date) 636-978-2727 [jblue@sunrisefamily.org](mailto:jblue@sunrisefamily.org)

DAUGHTER CHURCH FOUNDING PASTOR (Morning Star UMC)  
Michael Schreiner, 636-379-9667 [pastormike@morningstar-church.org](mailto:pastormike@morningstar-church.org)



As a pastor, lay leader, or church member in this process of moving toward becoming a parent church...

- We need to come to grips with our fears.
- We need to be honest about what is going on.
- We need to ask God to release us from any fear that keeps us from doing all that God might want our church to do.



There is a scripture that might help too. In I John 4:18 we read, *“Perfect love drives out all fear.”*

Your church may discover that as its compassion and love for the new mission field increases, their fear will decrease.

**It just might be that as your church grows in love for the un-churched, that love will begin to drive out the fear of starting a new church designed to reach them.**

**Let’s look honestly at the cost of parenting a new church.**  
**Steve Ogne has identified 5 key costs that all parent churches experience:**

1. Giving People.
2. Giving Leaders.
3. Giving Givers.
4. Facing Resistance - *everyone will not embrace that this needs to be done.*
5. Delayed Growth and the accomplishment of dreams - *it may take a year or two to recover from giving birth.*

**Yes it does cost something to parent a new church.  
 But it’s worth it!**

**? ✝ ?**

**Questions**


**Next time we gather,  
 we will look at the details  
 of a mother-daughter new church.**

**This is YOUR Invitation to be a Mother Church**

**PART THREE**

**Churches Who Plant New Churches.  
 Who Plant New Churches...  
 Who Plant New Churches...**


*Let’s look at some details.*

**Jim Griffith**  
 Uses the term **“Mother/Daughter”** church because there are parallels between this new church process and the human process of giving birth to a daughter...  
*its kind of a life-cycle.*

From the Parent Church perspective, this process begins with the decision to reproduce, then conception, the prenatal time, birth... then back to the decision to reproduce again...

**The Decision To Reproduce**

**Birth & Growth**  **Conception**

**Prenatal**

## THE DECISION TO REPRODUCE PHASE

We will start with the “decision to reproduce” phase so you can understand the process of church planting.

Several Key Steps:

**1. Cultivate a Vision for this ministry.**

*This is not a mechanical process ... it is a spiritual process... as we seek to discover what God’s will is for this church... surrounded and immersed in prayer as we seek God’s will.*

**2. Gain support of opinion leaders in the local church.**

*As leaders in the church, the congregation will look to you, and over time, they will follow your leadership.*

**3. Cultivate congregational commitment.**

*With strong congregational commitment, the church will not only give birth once, but will want to be a multiplying congregation that continues to support & start new churches.*

Several Key Steps, continued:

**4. Begin working to complete the “Application to Launch A New United Methodist Church”...**

- *What is the mission field we are sending the new pastor to reach... geographic... demographic...*
- *Prepare for the appointment of a New Church Pastor*

**5. Prepare for Release of the New Church and Recovery**

*With adequate preparation and attention to recovery, the church will not only give birth once, but will want to be a multiplying congregation that continues to start new churches.*

***The primary role of the Parent Church in this phase is to cultivate Vision and Commitment.***

## CONCEPTION PHASE

## CONCEPTION PHASE

This phase includes everything that needs to be accomplished before the new church pastor is actually appointed to your church staff.

**In the New Church Leadership Institute, potential new church pastors spend 15 months studying the details of the conception and pre-natal phases. We will not repeat all of that content today.**

**But from the Parent Church perspective, there are several key elements to the Conception Phase.**

**Key elements:**

1. Continue working to complete the "Application to Launch A New United Methodist Church."
2. The Sr Pastor visits with the new church pastor to clarify the ministry plan: a realistic proposal that contains...the core beliefs, core values, the strategy, benchmarks, model of ministry, the budget, list of teams to be mobilized... all covering the overall process ...
3. Work with the new church pastor and District Superintendent to clarify the financial commitment of the District, Conference, and Parent Church.
4. Begin a prayer strategy for the new church... an expanding prayer team that not only remembers the Parent Church, but the new church and the new church pastor.
5. Keep the lines of communication open between Sr. Pastor, new church pastor, key lay leadership, District Superintendent, and Conference Minister of New Church Starts.

**In the Conception Phase  
it is the Parent Church's opportunity  
to have the greatest leadership  
and influence in the new church.**

## PRENATAL PHASE

## PRENATAL PHASE

**This phase includes what must be  
accomplished before the first public  
worship service, implementing the  
plans established during the conception  
phase.**

**Healthy churches,  
like healthy babies  
require a developmental period before birth...**

**For humans it takes about 9 months to develop  
the critical mass and essential systems to be able  
to live in a healthy manner.**

**It's no different for a new church.**

**Key elements of the Pre-Natal Phase**

**After about 6 months on the Mother church staff, teams begin to be formed by the New Church pastor... a leadership team is gathered..**

**Twelve groups of twelve... 144 people**

- Intercessory Prayer / Launch Team - your future church will look like this team
  - Worship Team / to plan 6 to 8 weeks in advance.
  - Music team to implement the music program
  - Praise Team - the actual musicians - three or four with voices and microphones
  - Drama Team - a drama program
  - Video Team - selects videos/editing
  - Electronics Team to operate sound/video equipment
  - Logistics Team to set up and take down every Sunday morning
  - Publicity Team to do advertising
  - Hospitality Team for food, name tag, greeters
  - Special Events Team to secure special guest, speakers, performers
  - Culture Surfers Team - what is hot and what is not - meets at Star Bucks, reads the magazines, and keeps worship planning committee in touch with current issues in the mission field of the new church.
- There is also a worship planning team, with a representative from most of these teams.

2. **Teams are in harmony with the New Pastor / Vision / Agenda**
3. **Ministry systems / Discipleship process prepared for Launch Sunday and for the months that follow.**

**Role of the Parent Church During Pre-Natal Phase:****“To Guide and To Give”**

**TO GUIDE:** The Sr Pastor offers guidance to the new church pastor, holding them accountable for gathering new people and forming these teams. The new church pastor can easily be preoccupied in the search for facilities, designing brochures, and purchasing a sound system...  
*All things that need to be done!*  
But new church pastors sometimes forget the priority of Evangelism and gathering people.

**TO GIVE:** provide access to people and resources.  
Open an account for people to make contributions.

**BIRTH AND GROWTH PHASE****BIRTH AND GROWTH PHASE**

If the proper foundation has been laid during Conception and Prenatal Phases, you will enjoy the birth of a healthy church... Otherwise there will be a lot of work and problems.

- Launch Worship •
- Team Network Enlarged •
- New Leaders Empowered and Equipped •
- Ministries to children, youth, adults •
- New Professions of Faith and Baptisms •
- Planning and Refocusing •

**Role of the Parent Church  
in the  
Birth and Growth Phase?**

Get out of the way... release... don't smother.

Too often Parent Churches try to control the new church. The time for the maximum amount of influence is back in the Conception Phase.

At birth, it's time to get out of the way and let the new church function on it's own.

After the birth, the Parent Church understands itself to be the 'parent' and wants to direct and control... it comes natural, you just gave birth.

The new church has more of the feelings of a bride & groom after the wedding ceremony... they want independence, their own dreams... They usually don't want 'mom and dad' to get too involved... it's perceived as 'meddling.'

The new church wants you to be more of a 'sister' church, than a "mother" church.

**What values do  
“mother churches”  
have?**

**Bob Logan says that there are 7 key values that will lead a healthy church to give birth to a new church.**

1. A compassion for the lost - significant amount of time an energy is spent to reach them - a heart that says we **MUST** reach people who do not have a church home.
2. A culturally relevant style - a style of ministry that attracts seekers and addresses their needs - they are willing to adapt worship times, music styles, and Sunday School lessons to meet the needs of the newcomers.

*7 key values that will lead a healthy church to give birth to a new church.*

3. A great commitment to the Great Commission - they are committed to make **NEW** disciples and to teach the Good News about Jesus Christ.
4. A focus on developing and resourcing **NEW** leaders - they realize that leadership is vital - they actively seek to spot and train new leaders to start new ministries to reach new disciples - they give their best leaders to start new groups for new people.

*7 key values that will lead a healthy church to give birth to a new church.*

5. A confidence in God's ability - they make bold plans for the future - they recognize that our faith rest in God's resources, not our own.
6. A kingdom perspective - they are not jealous, but rejoice when a new class (or church) grows because that means there are more in the kingdom.
7. Generosity - they give people and financial resources freely to start new classes & new churches

†

Very few believers disagree with these seven values.

However, we find that these seven values are **HELD** and put into **PRACTICE** to a variety of degrees.

Some churches not only hold these values, but they have **BEHAVIOR** to match them.



The pastor is key to this process of parenting.

If the pastor is  
• hesitant, the congregation will follow.

If the pastor is  
• convinced that God wants this to happen,  
• has a compassion for the un-churched, and  
• has a kingdom perspective  
the congregation will follow.

**Let's look honestly again at the cost of parenting a new church.**  
Steve Ogne has identified 5 key costs that all parent churches experience:

1. Giving People.
2. Giving Leaders.
3. Giving Givers.
4. Facing Resistance - everyone will not embrace that this needs to be done.
5. Delayed Growth and the accomplishment of dreams - it may take a year or two to recover from giving birth.

**Yes it does cost something to parent a new church.  
But it's worth it!**



**Pastors & Lay Leaders...**  
there are costs of becoming a parent,  
but there is also great joy and fulfillment.

**If you have:**

- a vision,
- a passion to make new disciples, and
- a kingdom perspective -  
you will be willing to pay the costs.

*Healthy Churches Reproduce in Many Ways.*

**Will your church  
accept this invitation to give birth  
to a new church in your community?**

## 10 Steps to Develop a Vision for Church Parenting

*By Bob Logan*

1. Ask God to prepare your heart and open your eyes. This is not a mechanical process, but a deeply spiritual process as you seek to discover what God's heart is on this ministry.
2. Study the scriptures to develop an understanding of the heart of God, and how God has worked through history to start new churches.
3. Expose your self and your members to needs and opportunities. Open your eyes, look around, and see the possibilities.

### *10 Steps to Develop a Vision for Church Parenting*

4. Understand the context of your church and your community. Discover who you are reaching, and what portion of your mission field you are not reaching.
5. Involve people and key leaders in the prayer and planning process. People are committed to what they help develop.

### *10 Steps to Develop a Vision for Church Parenting*

6. Review your core values and ministry principles.
7. Take time to ask God for a specific vision, and to prayerfully discern God's guidance.
8. Develop and evaluate future possibilities. Begin to 'brainstorm,' to dream what God might have in store for your ministry.

### *10 Steps to Develop a Vision for Church Parenting*

9. Begin the process of writing a vision statement - to articulate what God is calling your church to do and become.
10. Finally and most importantly, cultivate **prayer support** at every level. The pastor should be committed personally to pray for the parenting process, and to encourage each individual in the church to do the same. Prayer warriors in the church should be invited to pray for the parent church, and the surrounding community. The prayers spoken in meetings, small groups, and worship should include this parenting process. In the midst of these prayers, God will confirm His will for His church.

Let's take a look at the  
***“Quick Community Survey”***  
***“Intercessory Prayer Teams”***  
***“To Raise Up Workers”***  
and the  
***“Application to Launch  
A New United Methodist Church”***



**Any questions before  
we look at the third model?**



**Let's take a look at  
a third model:  
3) The Two Point Charge**

**In many of our conferences,  
a third model springs up  
in very small open country townships.  
The two-point charge model**

- A pastor contacts the District Superintendent about starting a new church in a neighboring mission field.  
{Turning their appointment into a two or three point circuit.}
- The pastor begins making contacts in the neighboring community, gaining a growing respect in the community.
  - having introductory get-togethers
  - developing a Launch Team

**Advantages**

- A new church, built on the respect of an existing congregation, can reach a new mission field, without major financial obligations.
- As the small group grows, it provides any needed finances. (i.e. rental of space, etc.)
- A new church is formed is a community that could never support a self-sufficient church.

**Disadvantages**

- The new church often gets off to a slow start because the pastor has other duties in the larger congregation.
- Jealousy if the new church grows larger than the first church.

**Questions?**



*Churches growing new churches,  
who grow new churches*

**BOB CROSSMAN**  
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**Let's take a look at  
  
WHERE DO WE  
START NEW CHURCHES?**

- A decade ago, it was believed that LOCATION was the primary key to a successful church start.
- Across the country, United Methodist conferences put tremendous financial resources into selecting just the right site, and buying very expensive land. With the new property deed in hand, at some point in the future, an attempt was then made to start a new church in that community.
- From this experience our conferences have learned, the expensive way, that we were beginning in the wrong order.
- Location is important, but a successful church start movement within an annual conference begins with pastoral leadership cultivation, not land purchase.

That being said, WHERE should we start new churches?

This decision is NOT demographics driven. However demographics can help discern where to sow seeds.

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Ministry of New Church Starts & Congregational Advancement  
1000 South College Street, Little Rock, AR 72202  
501-388-8888 • 1-800-888-8888 • 1-800-888-8888

July 25, 2008


In the area of new churches, our strategic initiative refers to "giving attention to changing demographics of Arkansas." Where are the demographics changing in Arkansas?  
I do not believe we should be purely driven by these numbers, however they may help us to know "where to sow seeds" and explore the possibility of starting new churches or new ministries designed to reach these specific ethnic groups.  
The following table reports where the population is projected to increase the most between 2000 and 2010. The state of Arkansas has been divided into 409 population centers (each 5 miles in radius). The attached document lists the detailed report for all 409 population centers.  
Bob Crossman

POP. CLOSEST TOWN	ANGLO	POP. CLOSEST TOWN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
4 Rogers	7,999	1 Little Rock	6,143
2 Fayetteville	5,246	8 NE Little Rock	3,687
17 NW Little Rock	3,453	9 NE Little Rock	2,734
30 Cabot	3,327	10 NW Little Rock	2,734
7 Conway	2,966	4 Jonesboro	2,676
12 Bella Vista	2,886	12B West Memphis	2,670
11 Benton	2,244	14B Searcy	1,967
18 Springdale	2,093	12 Jacksonville	1,845
12 NE Hot Springs	1,879	7 Conway	1,742
14 NE Fort Smith	1,684	8 Pine Bluff	1,677
42 SE Fayetteville	1,589		
22 Mission Springs	1,260		
22 Paragard	1,246		

POP. CLOSEST TOWN	IRISH/SPANISH	POP. CLOSEST TOWN	NATIVE AMERICAN
4 Rogers	2,260	7 Fayetteville	863
2 Fayetteville	2,277	26 Fort Smith	493
26 Fort Smith	2,077	1 Little Rock	493
16 Springdale	1,796	7 NE Little Rock	493
14 NE Fort Smith	1,717	17 Jacksonville	366
18 DeQueen	728	17 NW Little Rock	288
22 Mission Springs	716	18 Springdale	257
49 Berryville	490		
7 Conway	384		
13 Russellville	340		


POP. CLOSEST TOWN	ASIAN
26 Fort Smith	1,811
2 Fayetteville	724
4 Rogers	564
1 Little Rock	519
18 Springdale	313
18 Arkadelphia	311

**MOST OF ALL:**  
Be open to the work of the Holy Spirit.



Selecting the communities to start new churches is NOT a mechanical process.

It is a spiritual process of discerning where God wants to start new churches.




Do you believe the Lord wants new churches to start?

Where should you start new churches?

Anywhere and everywhere the Lord wants you to!

**Questions?**



Churches growing new churches, who grow new churches

**BOB CROSSMAN**  
bcrossman@arumc.org



**Top Ten Reasons Why Church Plants Fail**



Bob Crossman  
Minister of New Church Starts  
And Congregational Advancement

**“Churches Planting New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches... Who Then Grow New Churches...”**



- Despite the hard work of planters and sponsoring organizations, some church plants do not survive.
- Not all church-planting projects become self-supporting.
- Understanding the primary reasons for these less-than-successful planting projects can help planters and sponsoring agencies avoid the actions that often lead to disappointing results.
- Let's review Jim Griffith's list of ten factors commonly found in church planting projects that fail.

## Number One

- **Lack of a clear definition of "success" and a clear exit strategy.**
- Sponsoring organizations need to clearly state their expectations and time-line for new church starts. Failure to do so leaves planters wondering if the development of the church is satisfactory and supervisors lacking objective measures by which to evaluate the planting project.
- A clearly defined time-line provides all parties with a common standard by which to assess the development of the new church start.
- **If goals (benchmarks) are not met on time, a review of the situation may allow for corrections, additional training, a clarification of target audience or other helpful action.**
- It may also highlight the need to implement the exit strategy and aid the sponsoring agency to invest its money wisely.

## Number Two

- **Premature birth.**
- **Starting public worship too soon is a factor found in almost all church plants that fail.**
- Presenting a quality weekly worship service requires a large investment of time and energy.
- In most new church starts, the beginning of weekly worship services is accompanied by a decrease in outreach and evangelistic activities. This is due to the demands of preparing sermons, coordinating music, preparing bulletins, set-up and tear-down of the facility in which worship occurs and the expectations of those attending to receive pastoral care from the planter.
- Launching with a very small group of people almost inevitably leads to disappointing results and a small or non-existent church.
- Planters usually underestimate the amount of time needed to gather a sufficient number of people to move to public worship. Sponsoring agencies usually do this as well.

## Number Three

- **Mismatch between the planter and the community/ context/ target audience.**
- It is important that the planter have an affinity for the community/context/target audience for the church plant. It seems like an obvious statement but this is a common factor in failed church plants.
- Factors such as socio-economic status, level of education, region of the county, population density preferred by the planter (and his or her family, if applicable), language, cultural differences, interests, family situation and recreational activities that are enjoyed all play a role in determining the affinity a planter has for a particular context.
- This is not to say that a planter cannot be successful in an environment that differs significantly from his or her upbringing or preferences, just that it will almost certainly be significantly more difficult to do so.
- **Sponsoring agencies must know both the context and the prospective planter in sufficient detail to make a determination of likely affinity prior to the assignment of a planter for a project.**

## Number Four

- **Insufficient assessment.**
- With all of the resources that are invested in a typical church plant, it is amazing that so many sponsoring organizations do so little assessment of either the context or the prospective planter.
- It is common that one or more people with little experience or knowledge about church planting select planters. This selection is based upon a host of factors such as do we like the person, are they from our tribe, are they related to someone we know, does it feel like they will do a good job, are they likeable and outgoing, do they really need this job and are they a warm and willing body. These factors are insufficient for selecting a planter.
- Church-planters need a skill set that is different from that needed by pastors of existing churches.
- There is a need for a more objective standard to be used in the selection process. The best indicator of the future performance of a person is his or her past performance. **The use of an outside consultant or assessment center or a trained team of assessors from within the sponsoring agency will result in an improved selection process and increase the likelihood of success.**

## Number Five

- **Lack of training and coaching.**
- Church planting projects in which the planter does not receive significant training and the ongoing support of a trained coach are more likely to fail than those in which this investment is made.
- Like athletes, even competent pastoral leaders need high-quality coaching if they are going to achieve peak performance.
- Planting a church is hard work and most pastoral leaders have had little past training that would prepare them for such an endeavor. In fact, some of their training may even work against their success in a church-planting situation (such as the emphasis in many Bible colleges and seminaries on pastoral care, counseling, Biblical languages and debating the finer distinctions between theological positions).
- Compared to the large amount invested in most planting projects, the costs of training and coaching are relatively small. Some sponsoring organizations invest over \$100,000 in a new church start. **Quality training and coaching might increase this investment by \$5,000 but it might also greatly increase the probability of the success of the church plant.**

## Number Six

- **Putting every egg in one basket.**
- It is not uncommon that a planter, or even a sponsoring agency, depends upon one event or approach or advertising campaign to make the church plant successful. In church planting circles, this is what we call a bad idea!
- The development of most successful new church starts is due less to an overwhelming response to one method and more to a series of waves of new people coming in response to a variety of events, approaches and or advertisements.
- If the future of the project is staked upon the result of one action, then the probability of failure is high. Every context is different; what worked in one setting may or may not work in the new setting.
- **A better approach is to pursue a variety of actions and measure the response of the target audience. Experience will quickly identify those strategies that are more effective in the context of a particular church plant.**

## Number Seven

- **Too much overhead too fast.**
- There is a temptation when planting a church to attempt to quickly acquire the trappings of a real church. That is, to have the things an existing church takes for granted.
- Planters often invest resources in video projectors, computers, filing cabinets, copiers, phone systems and office space early in the planting project.
- The problem with this approach is two-fold.
- **First, these items do not in and of themselves attract new people to the church. If church planting is about anything, it is about putting people in seats.**
- **The second problem is these expenses take resources away from the activities that are likely to attract new people, and some of these expenses occur every month.**
- A new church start is not an existing church and it cannot afford to act like it is.
- Careful selection of where to invest time and money results in a church-planting project more likely to succeed.

## Number Eight

- **The inability or unwillingness to recruit new people.**
- The biblical basis for planting new churches is the command of Jesus to make disciples of all people.
- While new church starts almost always attract people who have been attending existing churches, rarely should this be the target audience for a church plant.
- **Planters who either cannot or will not invest themselves in the difficult work of recruiting new people to participate in the church are almost certainly going to produce disappointing results.**
- **Planters or sponsoring agencies that are more concerned with caring for the few who are currently coming than reaching additional people will find it difficult to develop a self-supporting church.**
- Recruiting is both art and science; both a gift and the result of intentional, purposeful work. No recruitment means no new church.

## Number Nine

- **Lack of focus and ignoring the priorities.**
- In every planting situation, the planter and the supervisor need to answer a few fundamental questions. These include:
  - (1) Whom are we trying to reach through this project?
  - (2) What strategies will be used to reach them?
  - (3) What is the time-line for the development of the new church? and
  - (4) What are the essential steps that must be taken and in what order must they be completed?
- **Many planters work very hard but see few results from their labor.**
- **While planting is sowing intensive, sometimes the lack of results is due to hard work on non-essential tasks.** {i.e. homeless shelter; the death penalty}
- The priorities must be done.
- The most important items must be addressed.
- The critical actions must be taken and at the right time.
- A lack of focus will result in a burned-out planter and a failed church plant.

## Number Ten

- **Inebriation (also known as being drunk on your vision).**
- Church planters can often describe in vivid detail the church they are attempting to plant.
- They have grand ideas about what they will do and how people will respond.
- They can taste the community of faith that is going to result from their efforts.
- They spin their vision to others in the attempt to draw them into involvement in the new church. And in this process, they begin to believe everything they are saying and begin to consider as inevitable everything they are dreaming. They are, in short, drunk on their own vision.
- It is good to be enthusiastic about the planting project but planters also need a healthy dose of reality.
- In fact, one of the primary values of a coach is that they can help keep at least one foot of the planter rooted in reality.
- Without this perspective, planters begin to make assumptions about how effective their methods will be and excuses when reality is not as good as they expected.
- **Church plants can fail when the planter is detached from reality and, hence, fails to make the course adjustments that are necessary in every planting situation.**
- **Vision is over-rated. Church planting is hard work - a contact sport. Church planting is putting people in the seats.**

## When to Pull The Plug

- In the New Church Leadership Institute, all participants will write her/his own Ministry Plan for the first two years in a new church start. As soon as the new appointment is determined, before moving to their new appointment, the new pastor will work with the Conference Minister of New Church Starts and the district superintendent (and parent church) to revise the ministry plan. That Ministry Plan is fine tuned at Boot Camp (before moving day). The new pastor will be held accountable to that plan, with the agreed on benchmarks written in it.
- It will be clear to the pastor, the Launch Team, the district superintendent, the parent church, the Coach and the Minister of New Church Starts if the benchmarks are not being met, and that the appointment needs to end. In the formal Consultation Process in January (month 7 and month 18) between the new church pastor and the district superintendent, in consultation with the parent church and Conference Minister of New Church Starts - a decision will be made if the appointment should continue past June.
- **Continued...**

## Pull the Plug...continued

- Although formal consultation occurs every January, there are a number of benchmarks that would cause funding to stop and the plug to be pulled at any point.
- Criteria for ending the new church start might include:
  - **pastor s inability to build on the initial group of people.** *For example, if a new start pastor begins an appointment in July in a birthing/parent model with a Launch Team of twenty people - a reasonable benchmark would be for that group to reach 60 by Thanksgiving, and reach 100 by Easter.*
  - **loss of morale;**
  - **loss of hope;**
  - **limited financial ownership creating a welfare culture ;**
  - **little or no stewardship program;**
  - **lack of an accounting system;**
  - **inability to put essential ministries in place;**
  - **permanently stalled - loss of momentum;**
  - **loss of trust in pastor; or**
  - **pervasive sin.**

## Accountability

- **The Subject of Benchmarks Brings Up the Question of Accountability**
- The oversight of the new church start pastor will be done by a team, including the district superintendent, Conference Minister of New Church Starts, senior pastor of the local church (if using a birthing/mother church model), SPRC of local church (if using a birthing/mother church model), and a coach.
- Following are the responsibilities of each participant:

## Accountability continued

- **District Superintendent:**
- The district superintendent will fulfill the duties assigned in *The Book of Discipline*. The superintendent is responsible for supervision of the new church start pastor.
  - 421.1 “To work with elders... and charge conferences in formulating statements of purpose for congregations in fulfilling their mission and with committees on pastor-parish relations to clarify the priorities for the ministry of clergy and diaconal ministers.”
  - 421.2 “To establish a clearly understood process of supervision for clergy of the district, including observation of all aspects of ministry, direct evaluation, and feedback to the clergy involved.”
  - Concerning the superintendents responsibility with new church starts, the Discipline states: 259.1 “The district superintendent of that district... shall be the agent in charge of the project.”

## Accountability continued

- **Conference Minister of New Church Starts:**
- The Minister of New Church Starts will serve as the primary trainer, providing leadership and support in new church start methods. She/he will also work with the new church pastor and the superintendent in establishing a detailed launch plan with specific benchmarks and goals for ministry and oversee that the plan is adhered to in a timely fashion.
- **Senior Pastor (if using the Birthing/Mother Church Model):**
- The senior pastor will provide mentoring support for the church planter. She/he will encourage the planter, making ministry suggestions as observed. The senior pastor will continue in conversation with the district superintendent and the Conference Minister of New Church Starts.
- **SPRC (if using the Birthing/Mother Church Model):**
- In most cases, the new church pastor will not have a direct relationship to the mother church's SPPR, Finance, Trustees or Council. During the first few years of the new church's life, until the new church holds its constituting conference, the District Superintendent and the Conference Minister of New Church Starts will fulfill the typical functions of a SPRC, Finance, Trustee and Council.

## Accountability continued

- **Coach**
- A coach will be assigned to the new church pastor.
- The coach's primary responsibility is to provide mentoring, support and encouragement to help the church planter remain on task.
- All coaching e-mails and conversations will include the following people: new church pastor, new church pastor's spouse, coach, district superintendent, Conference Minister of New Church Starts, and senior pastor (if using a Birthing/Mother Church Model).

## Questions?



Churches growing new churches,  
who grow new churches

**BOB CROSSMAN**  
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We have introduced some of the basics about the  
“Rationale for Churches to Start New Churches”  
including:

1. Seven Key Values in Healthy Parenting Churches
2. The Primary Reason More Churches Don't Multiply Themselves
3. Five Key Costs That All Parenting Churches Experience
4. Ten Steps to Develop a Vision for Church Parenting

### I'm sure you still have more questions.

I would like to invite you to consider meeting with me every few weeks as you consider the possibility of becoming a “Mother Church.” If we do meet together in the weeks ahead, you may wish to enlarge our circle of participants for three reasons:

1. to begin the process of enlisting a broader level of congregational support;
2. to perhaps discover laity who may wish to actually be part of the new congregation; &
3. to enlist laity who are willing to ‘do the leg work’ gathering the documentation for the application itself.

**I would like to meet with this enlarged task force about every two to four weeks to keep the process moving along.**

**TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

- 1. Rationale for churches to start new churches**
- 2. Values, fears and costs of parenting a new church**
- 3. Brief overview of the lifecycle of the 'birth' process**
- 4. Gaining support of key leaders**
- 5. Inviting the whole congregation to embrace the vision**
- 6. Choosing among the parenting models**
- 7. Identifying Affinity & Cross Cultural Issues**
- 8. The role of the new church start pastor**
- 9. Identifying the target community**
- 10. Preparing to release the new church - letting go**
- 11. Steps in recovering from the birth, and preparing to parent again.**



# • NEW CHURCH PARENTING TASK FORCE •

*“Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers...”  
Matthew 9:38*

**PURPOSE**     *To guide the parent church through the process of starting a healthy new congregation.*

- QUALITIES DESIRED**
- 1. Spiritual sensitivity*
  - 2. Visionary capacity*
  - 3. Compassion for the lost*
  - 4. Leadership and influence*
  - 5. Strategic thinking and implementation*

- RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 1. Prayerfully seek God’s direction*
  - 2. Grow in understanding the church parenting process*
  - 3. Confidently cast vision for the congregation*
  - 4. Complete assigned action items in the “Application for Launching”*
  - 5. Make decisions regarding the parenting project*
  - 6. Communicate progress and needs appropriately*
  - 7. Provide leadership to get the job done*

- COMMITMENTS**
- 1. Pray regularly for the parenting project*
  - 2. Support the parenting project enthusiastically*
  - 3. Meet together at least monthly until the church is born*
  - 4. Give 2 - 4 hours a week to the work of the task force*
  - 5. Provide faithful service to get the job done*

**MEMBERS**     *Chair:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Co-Chair:* \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____





## Is a new UMC coming to your town? Motions to consideration:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas understands that a new UMC may start in \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas some time in the next three years. We will **NOT SUPPORT** that new United Methodist Church.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas understands that a new UMC may start in \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas some time in the next three years. We will support that new church, **AS A SISTER CHURCH** with:
  - a. our prayers.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas understands that a new UMC may start in \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas some time in the next three years. We will support that new church, **AS A SISTER CHURCH** with:
  - a. our prayers, and
  - b. we hope to also support that new church with 'baby showers' to help provide some of the physical items the new church may need in preparation for her first worship services: (portable nursery equipment, coffee pots, chairs, sound / video components, signage, Bible study materials, etc.).
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas understands that a new UMC may start in \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas some time in the next three years. We will support that new church, **AS A SISTER CHURCH** with:
  - a. our prayers, and
  - b. we hope to also support that new church with 'baby showers' to help provide some of the physical items the new church may need in preparation for her first worship services: (portable nursery equipment, coffee pots, chairs, sound / video components, signage, Bible study materials, etc.), and
  - c. we also hope to support that new church with volunteers in the early months (to make phone calls, distribute door hangers, worship greeters, nursery helpers, providing refreshments, etc.).
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas understands that a new UMC may start in \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas some time in the next three years. We will support that new church, **AS A MOTHER CHURCH**, with:
  - a. our prayers, and
  - b. we hope to also support that new church with 'baby showers' to help provide some of the physical items the new church may need in preparation for her first worship services: (portable nursery equipment, coffee pots, chairs, sound / video components, signage, Bible study materials, etc.), and
  - c. we also hope to support that new church with volunteers in the early months (to make phone calls, distribute door hangers, worship greeters, nursery helpers, providing refreshments, etc.), and
  - d. we also hope that \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (10 to 15) (15 to 25) (25 to 40) (40 to 50) (50 to 75) (75 to 100) adults in our church family will want to be missionaries in the new church - some of them may choose to stay, some may choose to be missionaries for two years and then return home to us.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas understands that a new UMC may start in \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas some time in the next three years. We will support that new church, **AS A MOTHER CHURCH**, with:
  - a. our prayers, and
  - b. we hope to also support that new church with 'baby showers' to help provide some of the physical items the new church may need in preparation for her first worship services: (portable nursery equipment, coffee pots, chairs, sound / video components, signage, Bible study materials, etc.), and
  - c. we also hope to support that new church with volunteers in the early months (to make phone calls, distribute door hangers, worship greeters, nursery helpers, providing refreshments, etc.), and
  - d. we also hope that \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (10 to 15) (15 to 25) (25 to 40) (40 to 50) (50 to 75) (75 to 100) adults in our church family will want to be missionaries in the new church - some of them may choose to stay, some may choose to be missionaries for two years and then return home to us, and
  - e. we also intend to support the new church financially, providing a partial housing allowance of up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$100) (\$250) (\$500) (\$750) (\$1,000) per month for the first 36 to 48 months, and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$250) (\$500) (\$750) (\$1,000) (\$1,500) per month in partial salary support each month, beginning as soon as June, 2006.

**MODEL ANTICIPATED:** \_\_\_ Extension Campus/Satellite/Second Campus: \_\_\_ Mother-Daughter New Church  
 \_\_\_ Partnership between two or more UMC; \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The above decision # \_\_\_ was adopted on \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ UMC Church.

Signed: Chair of the Council \_\_\_\_\_; Sr Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_; District Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

• for pastors starting new churches • for churches starting new churches • for resourcing our newest churches •