
The Work of the Committee

The EPC has given to the Church Planting and Revitalization Committee (CPR) two responsibilities:

1) To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches.
2) To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church revitalization efforts of presbyteries and churches.

Supporting Our Presbyteries

The CPR is very appreciative of the EPC’s commitment to the Multiplication (Church Planting) and Transformation (Church Revitalization) strategic initiatives. That commitment includes the disbursal of $250,000 in support of church planting and $100,000 in support of church revitalization in 2014-2015. The Committee hosted presbytery Church Development Chairs (CDC) and Regional Church Development Coordinators (RCDC) in Memphis in November 2014. At that gathering we shared our successes, failures, best practices and prayer. We believe these meetings help facilitate and accelerate the work of church planting and revitalization across the landscape of the EPC. In the future we want to be available as a “sounding board” for church planting and revitalization in our presbyteries.

Church Planting

Tom Ricks (Greentree-Kirkwood, MO) leads the Church Planting Team (CPT) that includes Jack Cathey (Lake Forest-Huntersville, NC), Jim Holland (St. Patrick-Collierville, TN), Mike Moses (Lake Forest-Huntersville, NC), Tom Melton (retired-Greenwood-Englewood, CO) and Shawn Robinson (Clayton Community-Clayton, CA). Joining the CPT this year was Matt Brown (Resurrection-Brooklyn, NY) and Bart Garrett (Christ Church-East Bay, CA). Chris Hildebrand (Resurrection-Brooklyn, NY) and David George (Christ Church-East Bay, CA) have served the CPT as leaders of the Church Planters Resident Internship program begun in 2015. A distinctive of the CPT is that all members have led and are leading church planting efforts in their community or presbytery.

The CPR hosted the inaugural Church Planters Network meeting in Denver, CO April 28-May 1. Eighteen church planters, the Church Planting Team and Presbytery church development committee chairs participated in this event. We hope to make this an annual gathering for mutual encouragement and equipping.
The following is an update on church plants and mission groups (works begun since the 2014 General Assembly are underscored):

- **Alleghenies** – New City-Pittsburgh, PA (Rodger Woodworth), Soma-Beaver Falls, PA (Marc DeJeau), Name TBD-Youngstown, OH (Gary Koerth) Redeemer-Erie, PA, Next Steps-Albion, NY.
- **Central South** – Fruitland-Jackson, TN (Roy Whaley), Advent-Arlington, TN (Don Kerns).
- **East** - Twin Tiers-Elmira, NY (Paul Irwin), Resurrection Brooklyn Heights-Brooklyn, NY (Michael Subrako), Sheepshead Bay-Brooklyn, NY (Brian Steadman), Name TBD-York, PA.
- **Florida** – City Church-Wilton Manors, FL (Phil Letizia), Kirk of the Pines-Marsh Harbor, Abaco, Bahamas (Gabe Swing), Providence-Spring Hill, FL (Greg Gunn).
- **Great Plains** - Three Timbers-Omaha, NE (Jeff Ryan).
- **Gulf South** – Quest-San Antonio, TX (Brett Becker), St. Patrick’s-Austin, TX (Brian Henson).
- **Mid-America** – West County Fellowship-St. Louis, MO, Central West End-St. Louis, MO (Eric Stiller).
- **Mid-Atlantic** - Christ Covenant - Frederiksburg, VA (Bill Lindner), Lake Forest-Davidson-Davidson, NC (Michael Flake), Lake Forest-Westlake-Charlotte, NC (Aaron Gibson) Victoria-Victoria, VA (Terry Pasco), Trinity-Hilton Head Island, SC (Tom Clymer), Grace Haven-Columbia, SC (Jaye Morgan), Rock-Greenwood, SC (Jay Hering), Cornerstone Church (mission)-Greensboro, NC (Ryan Rasmussen) and Hope-Hanahan, SC (E. D. Clem). Church in Restoration-Mechanicsville, VA (Jeff Lee) and Hope Community-Waynesboro, VA (Glen Holman) achieved particular church status in October 2014. New Horizon EPC-Asheville, NC and Crozet Village-Crozet, VA were closed in October 2014.
- **Midwest** – The Antioch Movement-Ypsilanti, MI (Dan Rose), Crossway-Macomb County, MI (Jason Huff), New City-South Bend, IN (Luke Potter) and Parkside Christian Fellowship-Deshler, OH.
- **Pacific** – The Table-San Francisco, CA (Troy Wilson), Christ Church - Oakland, CA (Patrick Vaughn), Christ Church-Lafayette (David George), Christ Church-Oakland Startup (Kyle Brooks) and SE Reno, NV (Kevin Nolen).
- **West** – St. Patrick’s-Denver, CO (Shane Sunn), E-470 Corridor-Denver, CO (Doug Klein), and Clear Creek Neighborhood-Idaho Springs, CO (Bill Robertson).

**Summary.** Since the 2014 General Assembly, twelve new works were begun and two were closed. Two church plants achieved particular church status. Twenty-seven works continue from before the 2014 General Assembly.

Church planting networks are being formed in the EPC! Gerrit Dawson (First-Baton Rouge, LA) and a group of pastors in the Gulf South Presbytery have formed a network and hope to plant their first church in New Orleans in 2016. Scott McKee (Ward-Northville, MI) has formed a similar group of EPC pastors to plant in Detroit. Leaders in the Kansas City area have also begun to talk about a church planting network.
Church Revitalization
The “Go Team” is led by Ken Priddy (Mid-Atlantic) and includes Bob Stauffer (Alleghenies) and Bill Rasch (Midwest). Ken, Bob and Bill are Regional Church Development Coordinators for their presbyteries. The Team is joined this year by Bill Senyard (Lookout Mountain-Golden, CO).

Go Team members made revitalization presentations / training events at Midwest, East, Southeast, Rivers & Lakes, Pacific, Mid-Atlantic, Alleghenies and Mid-America presbyteries in the last year. Approximately 40 churches outside of the 200+ churches of Mid-Atlantic, Alleghenies and Midwest presbyteries directly benefited from revitalization seminars/training events. Those churches range from Omak, WA to Peabody, MA and from Sacramento, CA to Green Bay, WI.

Bart Hess Award
The National Outreach Committee enthusiastically selected Christ Church-East Bay, CA to receive the 2015 Bart Hess Award for innovative and reproducible work in church planting. The Christ Church congregation, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Bart Garrett, began in 2006. To accommodate and spark further growth, in 2011 it went to parish model of ministry; five parishes were begun. In 2014 it launched The Table-San Francisco, CA and Christ Church-Oakland. In 2015, having grown to 15 parishes, it launched Christ Church-Lafayette and Christ Church-Oakland Startup. In addition, Christ Church-East Bay hosts one of the EPC’s three Church Planters Resident Internship programs, and is especially targeting the recruitment of multi-ethnic church planters.

Recommendations to the General Assembly
None.

Respectfully submitted

Rush Sherrill
Chairman

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