

Church Planting Partnering Levels

Level 1 Support

- Pray
- Send volunteer teams
- Give financially
- Assist with special projects

Level 2 Sponsor

- Adopt as a mission church
- Coach/mentor leadership
- Pray
- Send volunteer teams
- Give financially
- Assist with special projects

Level 3 Send

- Discover leaders from within and without
- Develop the leadership
- Identify place/people to reach with a new work
- Equip a team to send out
- Send out/sponsor new work/mission
- Coach/mentor leadership
- Pray
- Send volunteer teams
- Give financially
- Assist with special projects



absc.org/churchplanting
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Church Plant Partner Guide

Level 1 | Supporting Church

1. Explore Options for Partnerships

Supporting by partnering with a church plant is an incredible way to get your church involved in missions right here in AR. There are opportunities to support locally or across the state, with people like you or cross-culturally. Connect

with the ABSC Church Planting Team to identify potential plants and planters, pray, see what the Lord is doing and follow His leadership.

- Consult with an ABSC strategist for current options
- Pray for discernment about with whom to partner
- Meet and interview potential planters

2. Identify Planter—Determine Where and with Whom

Based on who you are as a church and your strategy to engage in missions, identify a plant to help support. Take some time to introduce planter to the church and build a foundation for ongoing relationship. Spend some

time with the planter on their turf introducing your church to the mission field they will be partnering with.

- Identify where and who to support
- Introduce the planter to your church
- Send missions team to the field to prayer walk/connect with the plant

3. Outline Partnership/Support Roles

Different churches have different structures and resources. Who is going to be the point person from your church for the partnership? At what level will you support? How will communication for prayer requests and planning be

handled? All these questions and more need to be predetermined in order to ensure a healthy relationship.

- Work with/through missions committee
- Determine extent of support (pray, give, go)
- Set communications plan and calendar

4. Engagement with the Church Plant

Go to work! Train your people in evangelism and outreach to prepare for mission trips. Cast a vision for going and reaching the lost. Be generous with your time and resources. Pray specifically for real time prayer requests, and

share how the Lord is working. Send volunteers to prayer walk, do block parties, help with follow-up, community projects, etc.

- Prepare your church
- Support the plant financially
- Pray continually
- Send volunteers regularly

Level 2 | Sponsoring Church

1. Explore Options for Sponsoring

Partnering with a church plant by Sponsoring is an incredible way to get your church involved in missions right here in AR. There are opportunities to sponsor new works locally or across the state, with people like you or cross-culturally.

Connect with the ABSC Church Planting Team to identify potential plants and planters, pray, see what the Lord is doing and follow His leadership.

- Consult with an ABSC strategist for current options
- Pray for discernment about who to sponsor
- Meet and interview potential planters

2. Identify Planter—Determine Where and with Whom

Based on who you are as a church and your strategy to engage in missions, identify a plant to help sponsor. Take some time to introduce planter to the church and build a foundation for ongoing relationship. Spend some

time with the planter on their turf introducing your church to the mission field they will be partnering with.

- Identify where and who to sponsor
- Introduce the planter to your church
- Send missions team to the field to prayer walk/connect with the plant

3. Outline Sponsorship Roles

Different churches have different structures and resources. Who is going to be the point person from your church for the partnership? How will communication for prayer requests and planning be handled? All these

questions and more need to be predetermined in order to ensure a healthy relationship.

- Work with/through missions committee
- Determine extent of support (pray, give, go)
- Set communications plan and calendar

4. Develop ABSC and SBC Agreements

Sponsoring a new work entails some official SBC documentation. At the beginning of the new work, they are officially a "Mission" of the sponsoring church. The mission is under the watch care of the sponsor until it has

established its founding documents (constitution and by-laws) and is on solid footing.

- Work through ABSC Covenant Agreement
- Affirm relationship through church vote
- Sign and submit ABSC New Mission form

5. Engagement with the Church Plant

Go to work! Train your people in evangelism and outreach to prepare for mission trips. Cast a vision for going and reaching the lost. Be generous with your time and resources. Pray specifically for real time prayer requests and

share how the Lord is working. Send volunteers to prayer walk, do block parties, help with follow-up, community projects, etc. Connect regularly with the church planter in a coaching or mentoring relationship.

- Prepare your church
- Support the plant financially
- Pray continually
- Send volunteers regularly
- Coach or mentor the planter

Level 3 | Sending Church

1. Discern a Call to Plant—Determine Where and with Whom

Nothing is more important than hearing from God and doing what He says. Is God leading your church to plant another church? If so, then He has a plan, His Spirit is at work, and our job is to follow. How do we determine where and with

whom? In prayer and through discerning where He is already at work. Following are some simple steps to help you in the process.

- Consult with local, associational, and ABSC leadership. They are there to help
- Pray personally and corporately for/about church planting
- Pray over demographics and lostness in your community/region
- Prayer walk potential communities
- Determine where and with whom the Lord would have you start a new work

2. Identify and Equip Planters and Leaders

Who is the Lord calling out to lead the new work? Is there someone, or several, in your church that God is raising up? Discover, develop, and begin to deploy these potential leaders.

- Create an environment of multiplying leaders
- Assess leaders for potential planters
- Develop a system for raising up and equipping church planters (pipeline/residency/Chapter One training)
- Involve potential planters in outreach, prayer walking, starting new groups

3. Call out and Prepare a Core Team to Send/Assist

Cast vision for the church plant among the members. Identify and call out potential team members to join the new work. Give the new group time to develop and train in key areas of church planting.

- Cast vision for lost in target community
- Give the planter platform time and pray for him and his family
- Gather potential core group for training (evangelism/discipleship)
- Meet regularly to develop core team
- Commission and send out church planting team

4. Engage the Community

Work with the church planter and team to sow the Gospel in the neighborhood. Test the waters and see where the Lord is at work. Continue to pray for open doors. Follow up events with evangelistic Bible studies.

- Move into the community and discern the nuances of the context where God is sending you
- Continue in the practice of prayer
- Engage in various evangelism outreach events
- Start a Discovery Bible study from contacts developed
- Uncover "Persons of Peace" who can unlock the community

5. Ongoing Relationship (Coaching, Missions Teams, etc.)

A new mission church is a fragile group. Continue to walk with the planter and the team by praying, mentoring, and coaching them through the first few years of existence.

- Pray continually
- Support the plant financially
- Send volunteers regularly
- Coach the planter on a regular basis