

## PARTNERSHIP COVENANT

(Developed by Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Planting Group to be used in the church planting process in Arkansas)

**Purpose:** To clarify the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church planting group and church planters and their partners with whom we work.

**Objective:** To facilitate the starting of new churches in Arkansas by means of strategic partnerships. These churches will facilitate the reaching of people who do not know Christ and the discipleship of new Christians.

### Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities

#### Arkansas Baptist State Convention

- ❖ Mobilize prayer support for church planting
- ❖ Provide Assessment of church planters
- ❖ Provide training for church planters through Church Planting Essentials and other workshops
- ❖ Provide help for studying populations and people groups in order to plant healthy churches for various cultures and subcultures
- ❖ Provide training for mentors of church planters
- ❖ Help in the development of strategy for establishing New Testament Churches
- ❖ Provide accountability for church planters
- ❖ Provide church assistance for church planters

#### Church Planter

- ❖ Pray and seek God's direction with regard to His vision for the church plant
- ❖ Go through the North American Mission Board assessment process before ABSC and NAMB funding is approved
- ❖ Participate in the Church Planting Essentials Work Shop in the first 12 months of the church planting process
- ❖ Lead the new church plant to give 5% to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention and promote and give to the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering at the point of launch of the new mission or church.
- ❖ Complete a monthly report and submit it to all partners as a means of accountability
- ❖ Commit to the fulfillment of the Biblical functions of a church (Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, Missions, and Ministry)
- ❖ Commit to the doctrinal statement of the Southern Baptist Convention, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000, and plant a Southern Baptist Church
- ❖ Submit to a yearly evaluation of the church plant's health and development
- ❖ Commit to meet with the local Association to discover ways for Kingdom partnership.

#### Other Baptist Partners

- ❖ Mobilize local prayer support for the church planter and the new church start
- ❖ Work with the ABSC in securing the church planter assessment before funding begins
- ❖ Provide mentoring for the church planter
- ❖ Provide local accountability for the church planter
- ❖ Assist with financial support for the church planter and his ministry
- ❖ Keep the ABSC informed of any needs, problems, or concerns that need to be addressed
- ❖ Help in the yearly evaluation of the church plant's progress
- ❖ Meet with the church planter on a regular basis in order to stay abreast of the church plant's development
- ❖ Encourage the church planter's participation in the Church Planting Essentials Workshop
- ❖ Strongly encourage the new church start's participation in giving to the Cooperative Program, SBC Mission Offerings (Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon), State Missions Offering, and giving to the local Association
- ❖ Help the new work to become a constituted self-governing, self-supporting, and self-reproducing church as soon as possible in the developmental process

