



CHURCH PLANTER GUIDE

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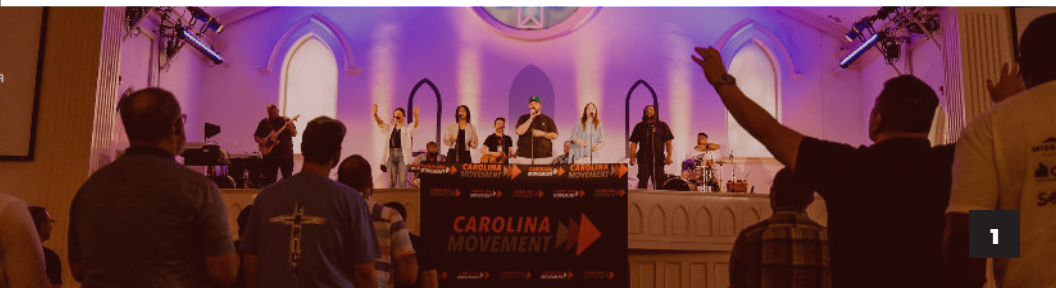
Welcome.

Welcome to the Carolina Movement family! We are excited to embark together on this amazing journey of church planting. Stepping out in faith to start a new church community is a bold move, and I admire your commitment and heart to build the Kingdom of God. It's inspiring to imagine the impact you'll have as you plant and multiply a church family to reach new people in new communities!

Starting a church comes with mixed emotions – you probably feel eager to go, but there are nerves and uncertainties. That's completely normal. Planting a church is a big adventure with its ups and downs. If you ever feel like you've got more questions than answers, or if things get tough, remember we're right here with you. Carolina Movement is all about teamwork and walking alongside each other. We've got your back with whatever you need – advice, resources, or just someone to chat with. We'll celebrate each success and navigate each challenge together along the way.

What you're about to do is going to make an eternal difference. You're laying the groundwork for a community that will grow in faith and bring the love of Christ to many. As you plant your church and multiply it, remember to focus on Jesus and His guidance. He'll show you the way forward. Let's dive into this adventure with God leading the way, trusting Him to provide all we need.

For the Kingdom,
Chris Hankins
Movement Leader
Carolina Movement



Why Plant? Our Convictions.

01.

Church Planting is the Most Effective Method of Evangelism

It has been statistically proven that planting new churches in a community reaches more people for Jesus Christ than any other missional strategy.

02.

A Church Planting Movement is the only way to reach NC

The only way to consistently and continually give every man, woman and child in NC the opportunity to know Jesus Christ is through catalyzing a church planting movement across North Carolina.

03.

Disciples make Disciples and Churches Plant Churches

We believe the Local Church is God's plan A for reaching the world. The local church is the place where disciples and churches should be planted from.

04.

Every church should be a Church Planting Church

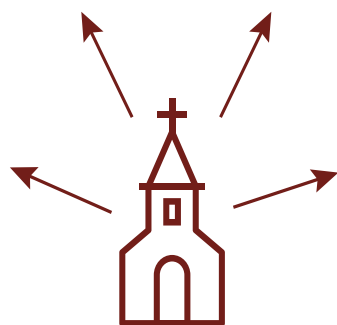
Every church was once a church plant and has a great commission responsibility to go and make new disciples that plant new churches in new places.

What is a Sending Church?

A sending church recognizes the importance of multiplying disciples and churches as part of the great commission. They intentionally send people, finances, and prayers through joining a sending church coalition and partnering with approved and assessed church planters to plant new churches.

A sending church's commitment is not just about financial support; it is a strategic partnership with an approved and assessed church planter. The relationship between a sending church and their church planter should consist of regular encouragement and support.

The sending church provides more than just monetary assistance but commits to covering the church planting endeavor in prayer, recognizing the spiritual significance and challenges of planting a new church.



This partnership is rooted in a shared vision for spreading the Gospel and establishing new faith-filled communities. By partnering with church planters, the sending church plays a crucial role in nurturing the growth of the new church, offering resources, encouragement, and guidance.



PHILIPPIAN SENDING CHURCH: OUR MODEL

Did you know the book of Philippians is a thank-you letter from a church planter to one of his sending churches? The Philippian Church is a beautiful picture of Gospel partnership. They supported Paul in his church-planting journeys early, faithfully, and abundantly. The Philippians gave sacrificially, sent team members, and stood by him when others walked away.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:4-5

"I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs."

Philippians 2:25

"At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.¹⁹ And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:18-19 NLT

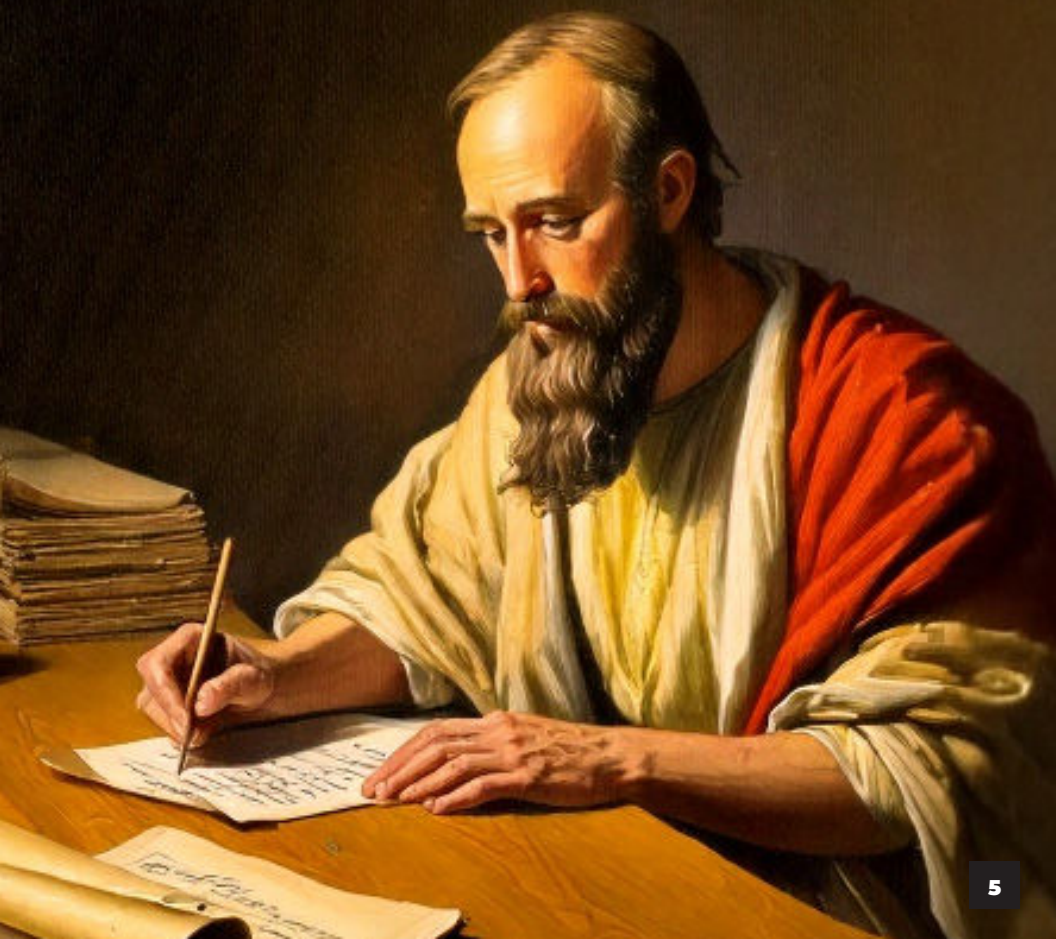
Lessons Learned

1. View Missionaries as Gospel Partners, Not Projects. (Phil. 1:5).
2. Give Sacrificially and Consistently. (Phil. 4:15–16).
3. Send People and Encouragement. (Phil. 2:25–30).
4. Celebrate their Fruit as Shared Fruit. (Phil. 4:17).

Rejoice in what God does in your church plants through your partnership—because it's credited to your account!

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:4-5



You Can Do It! *(Our Model)*

OUR MODEL HELPS EVERY CHURCH TO BECOME A CHURCH PLANTING CHURCH!

Plant Sent



No More Orphans

Organizations often sponsor church plants without the plant having a sending church to provide covering, prayer, resources, and support. The unintended result is that church plants become spiritual orphans. In our model, every church plant has multiple sending/mother churches.

Plant Directly



No More Middle Men

When a sending church becomes engaged with a specific church plant, it becomes more passionate about church planting. Having a direct relationship with a church plant allows churches to engage their congregation in praying for, serving with, giving to, and sending out people to help the new church plant.

Plant Immediately



No More Waiting

Most church plants never end up planting another church. The only way to see a church planting movement is through churches planting churches that plant churches. In our model church plants immediately become sending churches by joining a church planting coalition immediately after their grand opening!

Everyone Plants

No More Mega Mentality

Many smaller to medium size churches think they don't have the resources to plant a church. However, we believe church planting should not just rely on mega churches with mega budgets. We set the funding level at a place where every church can become a sending church through joining a coalition of sending churches.



Plant Together

No More Solo Planting

Church planting coalitions provide multiple sending churches for a church plant. A single sending church does not have the pressure of providing all the support and resources. Church Plants thrive when supported by multiple sending churches while Both gaining the organizational and operational support of Carolina Movement.



*****100% of sending church donations go to their approved church plant of their choice. 0% is taken out for operations. All Operations/Planter Care costs are covered by a group of stakeholder churches and organizations.***

Relationships are key.

Our coalition planting model is truly all about relationships. One thing that makes the Carolina Movement unique is that sending churches designate 100% of their donations to their designated church plants. Every penny they give to our church plant support fund goes to their chosen church plants.

Designated giving means that while we will introduce you to potential sending churches and encourage them to partner with your church plant, ultimately their decision to become a part of your sending church coalition depends on the relationship you build with them.

After being approved as a CM Planter, one of your first priorities should be to work with our Planter Care Team to create a list of potential sending churches. Next, schedule coffees and lunches to meet the key leaders in person, share your vision, and invite them to join your sending church coalition. We recommend asking CM team members who have relationships with potential sending churches to make the introduction via text and, when possible, join you for an in-person introduction meeting.

Our prayer is to see you build a sending church coalition of 4-7 churches. Church Planters who take the networking and relationship-building phase seriously typically meet this goal and are well-funded. However, planters who do not take the time to establish, cultivate, and develop relationships with key leaders at potential sending churches end up with 1-3 sending churches and less funding.



Two Way Partnership

Partnership works both ways! One of the commitments you make as a Carolina Movement planter is to introduce Carolina Movement to churches you have relationships with and encourage them to give to your church plant through Carolina Movement. Why?

Accountability

A horizontal progress bar with a dark grey segment on the left and a light grey segment on the right.

Carolina Movement holds your sending churches accountable for fulfilling their commitments to your church plant. We have a 99% success rate with sending churches fulfilling their partnership commitments through Carolina Movement.

Equipping

A horizontal progress bar with a dark red segment on the left and a light grey segment on the right.

Carolina Movement specializes in equipping sending churches to be the best partners possible for your church plant. We will train them to pray for you, support you, love you, commission you, and celebrate with you!

Paying it Forward

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Our big dream is to not only plant churches but to catalyze a church planting movement in North Carolina. Our experience is that most churches who become sending churches through Carolina Movement go on to become sending churches for additional church planters in the future. When you connect Carolina Movement with churches you have existing relationships with, you pave the way for future church planters and play a key role in catalyzing our church planting movement!

Make The Ask

The most significant and repeated mistake church planters make when raising support for their church plant from churches and individuals is failing to make a direct God-sized ask for help. I have never seen a kingdom-minded individual or church get upset at a church planter making a direct and God-sized ask for support. However, I have repeatedly heard the following: “I would have given if they had directly asked for us to do something” or “We would have given more if they had asked for more.”

One of the benefits of partnering with Carolina Movement is that potential sending churches know there is a financial and sending component to being a sending church. You are not begging others for help; instead, you are giving them an opportunity to invest in the Kingdom of God. So make a big ask and thank God for however he leads them to support.

Consider asking for:

- *An initial one-time financial gift to help purchase needed equipment & supplies*
- *Ongoing monthly financial support for 2-3 years*
- *Spare equipment (Pipe & Drape, Sound Equipment, Play Panels, Trailer, etc.)*
- *(if close) Send people on a 6-month mission trip by serving on your launch team*
- *(if far) Send a weekend mission team to help with an outreach project leading up to your launch Sunday*

Following these best practices will help you raise needed resources for your church plant and allow your sending church coalition the ability to make an incredible Kingdom investment!

Recommended Reading: The God Ask by Steve Shadrach

Receiving Funding

Setting Up Funding

Once you are officially approved as a Carolina Movement church planter, an essential next step is to get set up to receive funding. Carolina Movement partners with supporting churches to invest in your church plant, and we use **Bill.com** to facilitate these financial transactions.

Be on the lookout for an email from **Bill.com**. The sender will be **account-services@inform.bill.com**, and the subject line will read: **Carolina Movement wants to pay you using BILL**. This email will contain instructions on how to set up your account to receive direct deposits.

Completing Your Setup

To receive funding, you will need to:

- 1. Follow the instructions in the Bill.com email** to set up your payment account.
- 2. Enter your banking information** so that funds can be deposited directly into your church plant's account.

If You Do Not Yet Have a Church Bank Account

If your church plant does not yet have a designated bank account, here are two possible options:

- **Contact Mission Support** for assistance in setting up an account: info@missionsupport.com. The process is fairly simple, quick, and straightforward.
- **Talk to your sending church** about temporarily routing the funds through their account until yours is established.

Funding Distribution Schedule

Carolina Movement distributes funds to our church planters on the **15th and 30th of each month**. Ensure your account is set up promptly to avoid delays in receiving your financial support.

If you have any questions or encounter issues during this process, please contact admin@carolinamovement.com for further assistance.

Being A Good Partner

How you partner with your sending church coalition is extremely important. It is essential not only for your relationship with your sending churches but also for future church planters. Sending churches who have great experiences partnering with church planters are more likely to partner with future CM planters and increase the portion of their mission budget dedicated to church planting. Finally, the people who call that church home will become increasingly likely to be willing to join the launch team of a future church plant.

The number one way to be a good church planting partner for your sending churches is good communication. Your Sending Churches genuinely want to hear how things are going, know how they can pray, and celebrate with their congregation as your church plant advances the Kingdom of God in your community.

On the other hand, churches become discouraged and frustrated when they don't regularly hear from their church planters. The number one complaint we hear from sending churches is that their church planter doesn't communicate with them, and they don't know what is happening at the church plant. When questioned by their congregation about how things are going at the church plant, they are forced to say, "I don't know."

You are going to be incredibly busy as a church planter. One way to communicate with all of your partners, both individuals and churches is through sending out a monthly update through mailchimp or a similar email service. These monthly updates should include pictures, stories, celebrations and prayer requests. Block out a couple of hours on your calendar once a month to send it out and you will be amazed by the fruit it will yield. Finally, we recommend scheduling 15 minutes once a month to send a quick text to all your sending coalition pastors saying thank you, celebrating wins and asking for prayer. Continue regular communication with all of your partners as long as you are receiving financial support.

Commissioning

A commissioning service is a critical event where the planter, their family, and the launch team stand before their sending congregation. The sending church leaders lay hands on you and give their blessing, support, and Biblical authority for planting a new church in a different community. Commissioning services should mirror Acts 13:2-3, where the church in Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey after prayer and laying on of hands, symbolizing their blessing and support.

The commissioning ceremony affirms you as the planter and your unity with the sending congregation. It reminds the church of its role in God's plan and its commitment to sending workers into the harvest field. For the planter, it provides spiritual strength and encouragement, knowing the church community and their prayers are supporting them.

We recommend working with your sending church coalition well in advance of your launch Sunday to have at least one commissioning service where you invite all your planting partners to attend. Don't wait for your sending churches to put it on the schedule. Instead, be proactive, ask if they would be willing to commission you, and work with them to put the date on the calendar.



Church Planting Church

Moving from being a church plant to becoming a church planting church should be one of the most exciting moments in your church planting journey!

Your commitment as a Carolina Movement church planter is that after your public grand opening, you will immediately join a sending church coalition for a church planter of your choice in our next class of church planters.

We recommend identifying the church planter you will partner with as you get three months away from your church plant's grand opening. Consider introducing the church planter to your leadership team before you launch and even publicly celebrating the partnership at your grand opening. Your new church needs to catch the vision that planting your church is not the finish line but rather the starting line for being a part of a church planting movement.

First, work with your regional catalyst to identify your church planter, and they will send you an electronic MOU (memorandum of understanding) to fill out. Next, begin giving to your designated church plant from the Carolina Movement donation page dropdown. No worries if you don't have a church planter identified by the time of your grand opening. You can begin making monthly donations to the "General Church Plant Support" fund on the donation page. Once you identify an approved CM Church Planter, the church plant will receive 100% of your accrued support.



Next steps.

- 1 Set up an initial meeting** with your **Regional Catalyst** to work on your list of potential sending churches and create a networking plan. If you are planting in an area without a regional catalyst, reach out to our Executive Director, Corey Alley - corey@carolinamovement.com
- 2 Film your free promotional video** and get your free headshots from **Mission Support** by emailing info@missionsupport.com. You will use this professional media on your website and with potential partners. Carolina Movement will also use this media to create your planter promotional card and introduce you to potential sending churches.
- 3 Get your 50 free t-shirts** with your logo from **Church Merch** by contacting contact@churchmerch.store. Make sure to mention that you are a Carolina Movement church planter. You can then give these to your launch team members to begin creating ownership of the church plant and advertising to the community.
- 4 Get your free resources** for launch team meetings from **Outreach.com**. Contact Justin Rhodes from Outreach at jrhodes@outreach.com or (336) 297-8528 to receive over \$1,000 in signs, banners, invite cards, street signs, and a new mover mailing! Signage establishes credibility and visibility as people visit to learn more about your church plant.
- 5 Mark your calendar** for the **Carolina Movement Gathering**. Visit CarolinaMovement.com/gathering and use code PLANTER at checkout to get up to 4 free tickets for you, your spouse, and your team! You'll have the opportunity to share with hundreds of churches, pastors, and leaders about your church plant and allow them to partner with you.
- 6 Review the 21 steps** to planting from **Mission Launch** at www.missionsupport.com/missionlaunch to see where you are at in the planting process and what next steps you need to take. You will be amazed at how much time you will save not trying to figure it out on your own!

