

Other approaches to church starting...

Transfer Growth

In some cases, an established church purposefully transfers a portion of its membership into a new ministry field to create a new congregation.

Church Splits

When a church splits, neither part of the split is technically a NEW church. While each congregation is “new” to a point, each carries the identity, good and bad, of the “Mother Church”.

House Churches

A growing number of believers meet as small groups in homes for worship and community. Vibrant in countries such as China and India, they are also growing throughout North America.



“Churches serious about participating in Missional ministry will be starting new congregations.”

Bo Prosser
CBF Coordinator for Congregational Life



Contact us if you are ...

- ◆ **an individual** considering planting a church. Let us tell you more about the church starting process and be involved in the discernment process with you.
- ◆ **a core group** interested in establishing a CBF presence in your community.
- ◆ **an established congregation exploring a new start.** Missional churches should be involved in starting new churches. New church starts need funding support, prayer, and helping hands to succeed. Has your church considered partnering with a new church start?

(800) 352-8741

www.thefellowship.info/churchstarts

To find contact information for church starts in your state or region, visit: www.thefellowship.info/churchstarts/contacts

new Church Starts
a ministry of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



“God is on a mission. And the incredible good news is that God invites us to participate in that mission. The Triune God chooses to include us in a grand and glorious mission. This is the Gospel.”

Daniel Vestal
CBF Executive Coordinator

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship 
www.thefellowship.info/churchstarts

Today, there are several approaches to starting new congregations. None of these is the one RIGHT way to do a new church start.

Evangelism Starts

Evangelism in its many forms is true to the New Testament model. This approach has at its heart the sharing of the Gospel and acknowledges the critical importance of discipleship, worship, and fellowship.

There are many church-starting variations of the Evangelism Starts process:

◆ **Cell groups** - Many cells in fellowship form a congregation. The Congregation then continues to “plant” new cells that “divide and grow.”



◆ **The Seeker Service** - The focus is on evangelizing those outside the church. Worship gatherings are high energy and highly professional in presentation. The “seeker audience” is encouraged to connect through a small group based upon affinity of interests, felt-needs and/or life style.

◆ **The Niche Market** - These are filled with creative outreach and directed worship for groups like the emerging church, cowboy church, biker church. The key is a creative outreach to a specific population.

The CBF Approach

The Fellowship is committed to starting new churches. Several of the previously mentioned approaches have been tried in our movement. Distinct patterns define the CBF initiative:

Analytical

We look at multiple data sources to assess place and leadership for a new start. Demographic studies, focus groups, church starter assessment tools, partnerships and fund development. The Holy Spirit leads this process, and prayer and discernment are at the core of a new start.

Entrepreneurial

Baptist creativity is a part of every new start. Each one is missional in implementation, self-directed by highly motivated individuals or groups, and entrepreneurial in delivery to the community. Each new start is directed by the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of the person or the group initiating the new start.



At the heart of the FELLOWSHIP'S NEW CHURCH STARTS ministry is a **PARTNERSHIP** model. This is consistent with the approach that we use throughout the movement.

Partnerships are created to allow for a

number of entry points to begin a NEW CHURCH START and to allow for support and sustenance of the new church. It can begin at any point, and partnerships form to support the work and the participants.

Partnership Model for CBF New Church Starts



Community Concentrated

Several new starts have emerged around concentrations of people. We are looking for "pockets" of people who are not served by a church and are desirous of a CBF congregation in the area. These churches are typically begun by a core group of persons living in a high density area.

Called and Affordable

Church starting is hard work. The core group must have a definite calling to participate in a new start. The group must be flexible in adapting to the cultural setting in which the start is occurring. The participants in a new start will understand that resources will be limited. Funds will be allocated to help with the infrastructure and marketing of a new start. Most church starters will begin their new work as a bi-vocational pastor. No funding is available for providing salaries for these positions.

Evangelistic

CBF is committed to advancing a church starting culture. Within this culture we encourage persons to accept Christ and to join Christ in the work of the Kingdom of God. Evangelizing the culture will never happen without effective evangelism of the individual. The missional congregation is the best expression of this evangelism. As we share Christ with our communities, we will see more and more opportunities for new congregations to emerge.

