



10 Sending Church Basics

Sending Churches commit to take responsibility for a church plant until it can stand on its own as a self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating church. Many Sending Churches have questions about their role in helping a church become self-sustainable.

Here are 10 basic things a Sending Church should do:

- 1. Enlist a member of your church or staff to lead your partnership**
Every church plant needs a champion within the Sending Church. Begin by identifying who the best leader from the Sending Church would be to act as the primary advocate for the new church among the sending congregation.
- 2. Clarify the partnership's goals and expectations with a signed, written agreement**
Much like marriage counseling, a written agreement will help the Sending Church and the church planter to talk through the major issues they will face. Writing out those expectations and signing an agreement can help make sure everyone is on the same page and underlines the significance of what you're doing. You can find a sample Church Planter Agreement at namb.net/SendingChurch.
- 3. Ensure your planter has been assessed and appropriate training begins**
Every church planter should be assessed, both within the Sending Church and by those with significant experience in church planting. NAMB stands ready to help with one of the best church planter assessments in the world. Learn more at namb.net/Church-Planter-Assessment. Proper training is also essential to maximizing a planter's strengths and helping them grow in needed areas. NAMB has developed three training tracks to serve different planters and planting contexts. Learn more at namb.net/Training.
- 4. Help your planter determine a budget and establish financial policies and procedures**
Sending Churches should take the lead role in helping a planter determine an appropriate salary, planting budget and financial accountability processes. NAMB has developed Planting-Projector.com as a free resource to help through this budgeting process.
- 5. Help incorporate your church plant, draft operating documents, and develop accounting and employment policies and procedures**
NAMB expects that the Sending Churches will carefully evaluate the specific circumstances of each plant with respect to incorporation, operating documents (i.e., bylaws, personnel policies), and accounting policies and procedures. When necessary, the Sending Church and the church plant will need to seek professional counsel. A list of third-party resources that help is available at namb.net/SendingChurch.
- 6. Develop a volunteer strategy with planter**
Volunteers can be a big help to church planters, but only when their participation in the planting process is strategic and volunteers are well-equipped to serve. Learn more about how volunteers can participate in the work of church planting at namb.net/SendingChurch.



7.

Develop and implement on-going prayer and care strategies

When your planter hits the field, he will be in the crosshairs of Satan's attempts to thwart his work. Your proactive prayer, encouragement and care for your church planter may make the difference between his success and failure. Sending Churches should lead out in the great work of praying and caring for the church plant, the planter and the planting team. Check out "10 Ways to Care for a Planter" at namb.net/SendingChurch.

8. **Enlist Supporting Churches to help pray, participate and provide**

Church planting is costly, financially and otherwise. Most of the time, it takes a coalition of churches to plant a new church. The Sending Church takes the lead role in helping the planter develop a team of Supporting Churches to join in this great work through prayer, participation and/or providing for the planter's various needs.

9. **Celebrate and commission your planter publicly**

The Sending Church has the unique privilege of celebrating and commissioning the church planter as they launch them to this new work. This is a great opportunity to communicate to your congregation what God has done and pray for what He will do through this new work.

10. **Ensure your planter receives adequate coaching**

While you can care for your planter emotionally, spiritually and physically, you may struggle to coach him strategically unless you have planted a church in a similar context. The Sending Church should take the lead role in finding a coach that has the expertise and experience that will help the planter walk through the tactical aspects of church planting.