

FAQs



Church Planting in the Texas District, LCMS

Who can plant a church? *Every congregation, pastor, church worker and believer needs to be involved in church multiplication in some way. Every church is encouraged to be involved in the church planting process. The Texas District is happy to partner with local churches and networks to help start new Word and Sacrament ministries.*



What funding is available for church plants? *The Texas District stewards the financial resources contributed by partner congregations for the purpose of Kingdom expansion. If a local congregation or network submits a proposal with the Right Person (an assessed church planter), the Right Place (a demographic study that indicates the viability of a new church plant), and the Right Plan (a ministry and budget plan approved by the Board of Mission Administration), a church planter training grant, church planter coaching dollars, and church plant returnable funds may be available.*

What are returnable funds? *The Texas District, LCMS offers repayable seed funding for new church starts. The funding is repayable over a 20-year period at 0% interest. Up to approximately \$200,000 may be available for conventional church plants. Up to approximately \$100,000, with only 50% of the funding being repayable, may be available for bi-vocational church planting plans.*

How do you plant a church? *Steps to church planting are available in summary and detailed forms at www.txlcms.org/planting-resources/.*

Do I have to be assessed as a church planter to start something? *While understanding your gifts, strengths and growth areas is important for every person leading a church planting effort and is encouraged for every church planter, the requirement to pass church planter assessment to qualify as a church planter is in place only for church plants requesting funding from the Texas District, LCMS.*

What is the difference between a Multi-site plant (satellite), preaching station and church plant? *A multi-site church is a worshiping community in multiple locations that is governed by the "mother church." The new site may be in another geographical area or on the campus of the current church. A preaching station is an effort to reach another community with the Gospel that may begin with a local Bible study, worship service, and community outreach. The preaching station may become a satellite or independent church plant.*

What about formal organization steps for a new start? *Details about the process of incorporation, being included under the LCMS 501c3 status, and chartering a new church can be found at www.txlcms.org/planting-resources/.*