

# Planting a Church in the Texas District, LCMS



## Steps to Planting Using Texas District Returnable Funding

1. Engage in prayer, study, and conversation regarding the readiness of the church to launch a new church.
2. Come to agreement among the leadership and the members of the congregation to move forward in examining the possibility of starting a new church.
3. Form a Church planting team to:
  - a. Determine potential locations for the new church using demographic and other study tools and methods (The Right Place).
  - b. Determine the initial target population, ministry focus, and goals for the new church.
  - c. Develop a church planting plan that includes a budget, specific launch steps, and a timetable for the new start (The Right Plan), along with how the congregation will support the process with prayer, people, and resources.
  - d. Create a ministry description draft for a potential Church Planter (The Right Person), working with the Area MMF to formulate a training and coaching plan for the new church planter.
  - e. Determine financial partnership needs with the Texas District, LCMS, completing a proposal to the local Area MMF for Board of Mission Administration consideration.
4. Receive approval from the congregation to move forward.
5. Begin the process of searching for an approved church planter (assessed by the Texas District, LCMS).
6. Form a launch team to begin the step-by-step process of church planter orientation and training, implementing the timetable leading to the launch of the new church.
7. As Word and Sacrament ministry begins, report the new start to the Texas District in order to register the new start with the LCMS (for the purpose of being included under the 501c3 umbrella of the LCMS).

**Start the planting cycle again...**

*Contact your Area MMF for detailed assistance with each of these steps.*

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