

# ***BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY***

**Key Perspective:** Unless we find different, less expensive ways to plant churches we will never be able to see a “movement” of church planting in the PCA; we’ll never be able to plant the number of churches that reach people for Christ and impact communities that we need to plant; we’ll never be able to respond to the needs and opportunities that face us. Bivocational ministry, like multi-site strategies, is one way for this to happen, one that has a biblical basis and historical precedent. We must see bivocational ministry as a positive strategy not just as a fallback plan. It is not for everybody or every situation, it can be part-time or full-time employment, it can be temporary (e.g. just for the first few years of a plant) or a permanent arrangement but it should at least be considered as a viable option in more cases than it currently is.

- (1) Biblical basis – ministry of Paul and “priesthood of all believers”
- (2) Historical precedent – throughout history and with most groups and denominations today

## **Practical Benefits**

1. Credibility
  
2. Connections
  - Evangelism and service
  - Becoming a community pastor
  - Out of the ivory tower; keeps you “real”; see firsthand the needs and issues of people (which can greatly impact preaching)
  
3. Financial stability and freedom
  - Stable income
  - Frees up resources for additional staff and ministry
  - Less pressure to please people
  
4. Equipping and mobilizing the saints
  - everyone knows you can’t do it all

## **Challenges**

1. Time management
  - must balance walk with God, family, job, church, and self (exercise, sleep, etc.)
  
2. Lack of credibility

3. Lack of models, training, coaching and support, and encouragement

**Can take two forms (+ who's doing it in the PCA)**

1. Full or Part-time job and sometime only for "planting" stage
  - Gordon Duncan
  - Mick Leary
  - Weldon Williams
  
2. Wife working (full or part-time)
  - Many Korean
  - Ron May