

## The Influence of Church Planting Networks



Mission to North America’s mission is to serve PCA churches and presbyteries, as they advance God’s Kingdom throughout North America by planting biblically healthy churches through intentional evangelism and outreach ministries.

MNA continues to decentralize ministry, providing a coordinating and equipping role as we trust God for a grassroots PCA church planting movement and PCA wide church planting culture. As grassroots initiative grows, churches and presbyteries increasingly call on MNA for resources, consulting, and support services for churches, presbyteries, and networks.

As churches, presbyteries, and church planting networks plant churches whose commitments reflect the MNA Vision statement, we pray that a church planting culture will grow. As more churches, presbyteries and church planting networks mobilize to advance a grassroots church planting culture, the PCA may become a church planting Movement\*.

### Church Planting Presbyteries: these 36 presbyteries organized 75.3% of all PCA churches (292 of 388) in the past 16 years.

- |                                     |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Calvary                           | • Missouri                    | • Palmetto / Fellowship        |
| • Central Carolina / Piedmont Triad | • North Georgia / Georgia     | • Potomac / Chesapeake         |
| • Central Florida / North Florida   | • Foothills / Metro Atlanta   | • Rocky Mountain               |
| • Central Georgia / Savannah River  | • North Texas                 | • South Texas / Houston Metro  |
| • Evangel                           | • Northern California         | • Southwest                    |
| • Great Lakes / Ohio Valley         | • Northern Illinois/Chicago   | • Southwest Florida / Suncoast |
| • Heartland                         | • Metro                       | • Southern Florida             |
| • James River / Blue Ridge          | • Pacific Northwest / Western | • Tennessee Valley             |
| • Metro New York                    | • Canada                      |                                |

### Church Planting Networks and Churches in the Networks: Recruit>Assess>Fund>Place>Train>Mentor Church Planters

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • Alabama New Church Network                    | • Indianapolis CityChurch Partnership         | • N. Georgia New Church Network          |
| • Arkansas Church Planting Network              | • Metro Northwest CP Network                  | • Perimeter Church Network               |
| • Delmarva Church Planting Network              | • Metro Philadelphia CP Partnership           | • Redeemer Church Planting Center (NY)   |
| • Grace Project (Vancouver)                     | • Mission Utah (Salt Lake)                    | • Southwest CP Network                   |
| • Great Plains Network (IA, KS, NE)             | • MNA African American Network                | • Southwest Florida Network              |
| • Harvest Ministries Partnership (Columbus, OH) | • MNA Haitian Network                         | • Spanish River Network                  |
| • Harbor Presbyterian Church (San Diego)        | • MNA Hispanic American Network               | • Tidewater Church Planting Network (VA) |
|   | • MNA Korean Ministries                       | • Twin lakes Fellowship                  |
|   | • MNA Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches | • Vision LA (Los Angeles)                |
|   |   | • Vision 2020 (Canada)                   |

#### \*Movemental Christianity

#### Ten Marks of what Movemental Christianity might look like if it took place in North America

- |                   |                          |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Prayer         | 4. Reproducibility       | 7. Empowerment   |
| 2. Intentionality | 5. Theological Integrity | 8. Charitability |
| 3. Sacrifice      | 6. Incarnation           | 9. Scalability   |
|                   |                          | 10. Holism       |

From “Monday is for Missiology” by Ed Stetzer, Missiologist in Residence, SBC

## Movemental Christianity

**A church planting movement is a “rapid and multiplicative increase of indigenous churches planting churches within a given people group or population segment.”**

### Prayer

Prayer will need to be more than a habit, or a discipline. It must be a conviction that establishes its priority. Before we see movemental Christianity, we will have to be praying, asking God to change us.

### Intentionality

We will also need to show the intention of being movemental (see the next 8 elements). As of now, I believe our focus is primarily defensive and incremental, not intentional and exponential.

### Sacrifice

Change will not come without giving something up. No movement will happen until pressure is applied to move the church from the place of being static to a body of believers in action. This sacrifice will be paid by denominations, individual churches, and believers.

### Reproducibility

Movements do not occur through large things (big budgets, big plans, big teams). They occur through small units that are readily reproducible. Those who want to see movements need to see reproducibility at every level. This is a challenge is to resist the grandiose in favor of the reproducible.

### Theological Integrity

Churches wanting to be involved in transformative, movemental Christianity hold firm and passionate positions on biblical views. The Baptists and Methodists won the Western Frontier (1795-1810) because they were passionate about their beliefs. The Pentecostals are not de-emphasizing what they believe to win Central America. Movements are found among people with robust beliefs, not generic belief systems.

### Incarnation

Movemental Christianity recognizes that the gospel is unchanging, but the expressions and results of the gospel will vary from culture to culture. It also recognizes that as the sent people of God we are called to appropriately identify with those to whom we have been sent. All of this means that we must understand both the gospel and culture in order to be the biblically faithful, culturally relevant, counter-cultural movement of God. Movements will look like, and be owned by, ordinary people in their setting.

### Empowerment

Movements only occur when the disempowered are given the freedom, and then take up the responsibility, to lead. In our case, the [clergification](#) of the church has marginalized those God has called - *all people*. The disempowerment of church members simultaneously satisfies and disturbs many pastors. Frustration results from not being able to get others to do the work of ministry, but satisfaction comes from being affirmed in doing the work others should be doing. Such co-dependency is the death-knell of movemental Christianity.

### Charitability

Movemental Christianity is messy. Those involved in it make mistakes, over-emphasize certain things, and even believe things different than I do. Nobody gives her or his life for a bland belief system. A movement of God cannot be contained in a single movement or theological tradition. Therefore, movemental Christianity requires charity to maintain our firmly held convictions while rejoicing for and speaking well about those with whom we differ but are being greatly blessed by God.

### Scalability

Movements often are stifled within smaller communities because of the small mindedness of local believers. When God begins to move, and believers allow movement Christianity to begin to grow, structures must be able to rapidly re-size to not stifle such movements.

In many cases, movements will break out of structures. More frequently, non-scalable structures (like some training programs or denomination structures), will actually hinder the movement. These structures become bottlenecks rather than catalysts.

### Wholism

The modern evangelical separation of gospel proclamation and societal transformation is an historical oddity. Movemental Christianity will practice wholistic ministry much in the way of Jesus. Current movements and historical awakenings are and were accompanied by societal transformation. ([\*Cities of God: How Christianity Became an Urban Movement and Conquered Rome\*](#) provides a helpful look at this subject.)

I am sure a true movement will involve more than this... but these would be a start.