

Church Planter Community

Characteristics of a Supportive Environment for Church Planters in Philadelphia

Essential Characteristics:

- **Missional** – engaging church planters as missionaries on the mission field to promote their sense of calling to advance the Kingdom and spread the Gospel
- **Indigenous** – considering the uniqueness of Philadelphia, the unique resources God has given us and the unique needs of our church planting community
- **Relational** – building on and driven by the growing personal and strategic relationships that exist in our fellowship, while avoiding sterile professionalism
- **Connectional** – not PCA-only, but an environment that is enriched by the participation of strategic allies at the highest levels of the training process
- **Systematic** – covering the key components of church planting and the seasons of church planting comprehensively and in depth, without perpetuating stereotypes and so-called “models”
- **Continuous** – encouraging a culture of life-long learning in which church planters cycle through the series to become mentors and coaches for the next wave
- **Interactive** – not expert to novice, but a conversation in which each participant contributes to the growth and development of others
- **Systemic** – contributing to the momentum of the Body of Christ in metro Philadelphia, especially the presbyteries, CityNet, and our extended network of partners
- **Intercessional** – last, but not least, wrapped in Gospel-centered, Kingdom-driven and prevailing prayer for church planters and church planting in the region

Additional Characteristics: (not optional, but residual benefits)

- **Revitalizing** – offering a community where pastors of existing churches can be revived by the Gospel, freshly exposed to biblical principles of church vitality and renewed in their passion for the growth of their churches
- **Reproducible** – employing a model that is easily multiplied because it is not top-down, expert-dependent or resource-heavy

Learning Models

- **Redeemer NYC’s Church Planting Center**, Partners Training
- **Global Church Advancement’s New Churches Network**