

# CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

## Boston Church Planting Overview

### Background

As a church invested in the gospel renewal of greater Boston, Christ the King has sought to strategically pursue church planting as a means for reaching the city. CTK was established in 1994 and, upon merging with a Brazilian Presbyterian congregation, became a multicultural church with a morning service in English and an evening service in Portuguese, each led by its own pastor. CTK then planted three Brazilian churches in the area in the late 1990s/early 2000s and in 2003 helped launch Citylife Church in downtown Boston.

In 2006, prompted by the vision of a ruling elder, CTK set up a second worship service site in Dorchester, and in 2008 a church planter was found. The experience with Dorchester led the Session to consider how the it might be more intentional in church planting in the city. After much discussion, the Session elected to adopt a multi-congregation, multi-site model (similar to the one employed at Harbor Presbyterian Church in San Diego). The new model would: 1) accelerate new church planting by leveraging existing resources and consolidating new resources, 2) provide for a team approach to ministry which would be attractive for recruiting church planters, and 3) maintain continuity of vision for church planting and focused strategic planning across the city.

In the summer of 2009, the Session established the CTK Church Planting Center (CPC) and hired a director to coordinate the central church planting component of the new structure. We are currently recruiting new church planters and building a network community in order to efficiently and strategically engage our church planting mission.

### Mission and Vision

The mission of the Church Planting Center is the gospel renewal of Boston through the planting of new churches for the glory of God and the joy of the city. Our vision is that God would provide a healthy and growing congregation for every neighborhood so that the city and its people would be changed spiritually, socially, and culturally. We long to see:

- A proliferation of worshipping and caring communities...
- reflecting the cultural, educational and economic diversity of the city...
- equipping men and women to proclaim the gospel to all people and practice the gospel in all areas of life...
- as part of a network of congregations that share gospel values, kingdom commitments and a common vision for the city.

Our goal is to plant 20 new congregations by 2020, in and around the city of Boston.

### Why Plant Churches in Boston?

Once a center of vibrant Christianity, many churches in Boston abandoned the gospel generations ago. Religious sects have swept through time and again, leading people astray and leaving many skeptical in their wake. And recent scandals within the church have caused many Bostonians to become disenchanted with religion altogether. With one of the highest proportions of residents claiming “none” on surveys of religious affiliation, Boston has deep spiritual voids.

But why attempt to plant new churches in what is generally acknowledged as some of the rockiest spiritual soil in the country? Tim Keller at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York describes a two-fold benefit to planting new churches: “...vigorous church planting is one of the best ways to *renew* the body of Christ in a city, as well as the best single way to *grow* the whole body of Christ in a city.”<sup>1</sup> And so we are interested both in the additive effect of reaching more and more people in the city, and in the spiritual cultivation of the city through real gospel renewal.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the larger Boston metropolitan area (NECMA<sup>2</sup>) has a population of over 6 million. The Association of Religion Data Archives reports that this region has approx. 770 evangelical congregations with

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Why Plant Churches?*, retrieved from [http://www.rcpc.com/content/com.redeemer.digitalContentArchive.LibraryItem/19/Why\\_Plant\\_Churches.pdf](http://www.rcpc.com/content/com.redeemer.digitalContentArchive.LibraryItem/19/Why_Plant_Churches.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> New England County Metropolitan Area. Boston's NECMA includes most of eastern Massachusetts as far west as Worcester, and several counties in New Hampshire.

about 152,000 adherents.<sup>3</sup> That calculates to 1 church for every 7,786 people and 1 evangelical Christian for every 40 people in the city. Compare Boston with several other major cities around the country:

*Comparison of Evangelical Churches and Adherants in Selected U.S. Cities<sup>4</sup>*

City	Metropolitan population	Evangelical churches	Evangelical adherents	Summary	PCA churches
<b>Atlanta MSA</b>	4,112,198	1,671	954,666	One church for every 2,461 people in the city. One evangelical Christian per 4 people in the city.	53
<b>Boston NECMA</b>	6,057,826	778	151,955	One church for every 7,786 people in the city. One evangelical Christian per 40 people in the city.	10
<b>Chicago CSMA</b>	9,157,540	1,911	593,687	One church for every 4,792 people in the city. One evangelical Christian per 15 people in the city.	28
<b>Denver CMSA</b>	2,581,506	701	250,106	One church for every 3,683 people in the city. One evangelical Christian per 10 people in the city.	9
<b>San Francisco CMSA</b>	7,039,362	1,543	371,726	One church for every 4,562 people in the city. One evangelical Christian per 19 people in the city.	20
<b>Seattle CMSA</b>	3,554,760	1,069	323,813	One church for every 3,325 people in the city. One evangelical Christian per 11 people in the city.	13

Missiologists and church planting experts note that in order to effectively reach a community, there is a need for at least one church per 1,000 population. If we normalize the data for each city by subdividing the number of evangelical adherants into churches of 150, and then calculate the number of these churches for the metro population, we find the following:

Atlanta	has one 150-member church for every	650	people in the city.
<b>Boston</b>	<b>has one 150-member church for every</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>people in the city.</b>
Chicago	has one 150-member church for every	2,300	people in the city.
Denver	has one 150-member church for every	1,550	people in the city.
San Francisco	has one 150-member church for every	2,850	people in the city.
Seattle	has one 150-member church for every	1,650	people in the city.

According to this criterion, most of the cities listed above demonstrate gaps. But Boston clearly stands out as having an exceptional need for an influx of new church plants.

### Strategic Communities within Boston

In many respects there is a strong need for new church plants in almost every local community within greater Boston. The Church Planting Center is currently engaged in research in order to profile the demographic and religious nature of many of these communities. Find a map showing current areas of interest for new church plants on the following page.

### Funding

It is expected that the CPC, when fully funded, will be able to allocate significant startup funds toward new church plants in the city. The development goal for the CPC is \$1.6 million over 5 years. Currently, however, each church planter is responsible to raise funds from outside sources to cover the first 3 to 5 years of ministry, and longer if necessary. A rough estimated range of salary, housing, benefits and operating expenses is \$125,000 to \$150,000 per year for the Boston area.

### For More Information

Contact Bob Sawyer, Director of the CTK Church Planting Center, at (617) 354-8341 x113 or [bobsawyer@ctkboston.org](mailto:bobsawyer@ctkboston.org). Visit our web site at [www.ctkboston.org/churchplanting](http://www.ctkboston.org/churchplanting).

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.TheArda.com/mapsReports/reports/Metro/1123\\_2000.asp](http://www.TheArda.com/mapsReports/reports/Metro/1123_2000.asp)

<sup>4</sup> MSA: Metropolitan Statistical Area; CMSA: Combined Metropolitan Statistical Area. Both are terms used by the U.S. Census to describe metropolitan population centers. Data for this table compiled from ARDA and 2000 U.S. Census data.

# CTK Church Planting Center

## Prospective Church Planting Sites

### Northern Suburbs

Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield comprise a cluster of towns north of Boston with a combined population of 62,000. There is a suburban affinity with Boston, and many commute to the city for work.

As with most of Boston's inner-ring suburbs, each town has its own defined town center and supporting infrastructure. These are generally comfortable, well-established residential communities. With a balanced mixture of white and blue collar folks, these towns are home to both those with wealth and the up-and-coming.

A church plant here will need to be multi-generational and family-oriented. It will need to offer a picture of gospel renewal that goes beyond "being good"—where people are turned "inside out" spiritually, socially, and culturally as they respond to the good news.

CTK has several families scattered throughout the area, and several have been meeting on an occasional basis to pray about planting a church. However, much ground work will need to be done here, and the location may be more amenable to consideration as a "scratch" plant.

We are targeting the northern suburbs for a church plant in 2012.

### CTK Newton

Bradley Barnes is our church planter for this upscale inner suburban community of 90,000.

Cultivation of funds for the plant is ongoing. Preparation of the launch team is currently underway, and public worship is anticipated to begin in the fall of

### Roslindale

Growing diversity and strong civic pride characterize this progressive neighborhood of 35,000 in the southwestern part of Boston. With life centered around a robust village center, Roslindale has a very distinct culture and identity.

In our assessment, this unique environment fits very nicely into CTK's neighborhood-based philosophy of church planting.

A church planter will need to be comfortable in cross-cultural relationships and interested in bringing disparate people together for the sake of the Kingdom. This will likely be a "scratch" plant.

We are targeting Roslindale for a church plant in mid-2011.

### Pembroke

The town of Pembroke is located southeast of the Boston, midway along a stretch of coastal communities on the South Shore. There are nearly 210,000 residents among the 11 South Shore towns.

CTK currently has a strong core group meeting in Pembroke, eager for a church planter. The group is highly missional, with a deep affection for their unbelieving neighbors and friends.

Given its central position on the South Shore and the gospel enthusiasm of the core groups, we are immediately targeting Pembroke for a church plant in late 2010.

### Chelsea

One of the country's most densely populated cities, Chelsea packs 35,000 residents into a land area of less than 2 square miles. Ethnically diverse, over half of Chelsea's population is Latino.

Chelsea retains a gritty, urban, inner city identity. Immigration has played a central role in Chelsea life for the past several decades, with nearly 40% of its population born outside the U.S. That same immigration has reversed a trend of population loss in the city and fostered growth, cultural life and community.

A church plant in Chelsea will need to understand the ongoing tension that exists in Chelsea between old and new and recognize the very particular needs of the city's diverse population. A church planter will need to be gifted in cross-cultural ministry and creating partnerships, with a high degree of determination and even greater humility.

We currently have no specific church planting plans for Chelsea (or its very similar neighbor East Boston), but we are on the lookout for a gifted church planter with an interest in reaching urban Latinos.

