

**Metro Philadelphia Church Planting Partnership**  
**"Saturating Metro Philadelphia, South Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania**  
**with the Gospel and Gospel-Centered Churches"**  
**Criteria for the Evaluation of Site Selection**

**1. Leading of the Holy Spirit**

The Apostle Paul remained open to the prompting of the Spirit in church planting (Acts 16:9-10). So, must we.

**2. Partnership Potential**

We will work with churches that desire to reproduce, visionary leaders with compelling proposals and missional core groups, incorporating their desires into our plans.

**3. Strategic Centers of Influence**

City centers, edge city centers, universities and college towns should receive special consideration.

**4. Projected New Residents**

New residents in transitional neighborhoods and communities are more open to attending a new church than an established church.

**5. Population Density**

At the height of the church's influence on American society (1900) there were approximately 27 churches for every 10,000 residents. Within our Partnership we have one PCA church for every 150,000 residents. Is it a reasonable goal to have one PCA Church for every 25,000 to 30,000 people in a city, town or community?

**6. Percent of Unchurched**

George Barna has estimated that there are between 180 to 190 million unchurched people in America, and this number is trending upward every year. Northeastern US has even greater percentages of unchurched than the national average. What percentage of the population of a given community/neighborhood are attending church on any given Sunday?

**7. Community-Based Ministry**

Are the existing churches in the community effectively targeting and reaching the people of the community? It is not enough for a congregation to say, "We have people in our church who come from that community." They should show an intentional and effective commitment to the people who live there.

**8. Ministry Style**

Churches with significantly different styles of ministry can coexist and prosper in the same community, even when their theology is identical. Different styles and emphases reach different kinds of people. For example, it should be possible to start a Mercy/Fellowship style church in the same community as a Worship/Teaching Style church.

### **9. Ethnicity, Culture & Community Distinctives**

The ethnic, cultural, community distinctives of Metro Philalphia, South Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania compel us to think differently about church planting. Many people must be reached within their ethnic and cultural group, or in ways that are unique to their community before they can be incorporated into the larger Body of Christ.

### **10. Proximity to like-minded churches**

Linear miles should be considered, but this is not the first or only factor to weigh in site selection. Other significant physical factors include lakes, rivers, railroads, parks, major highways, interstates, traffic patterns and, city/township/state lines. We will work hard to develop understand and mutual respect, without compromising the need to spread the Gospel and advance the Kingdom.

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