

# **KEYS TO BEING AN EFFECTIVE MNA PRESBYTERY CHAIRMAN**

## **The Issues**

What makes for a good presbytery MNA Chairman? Who should and should not be a presbytery MNA Chairman? What qualifications should he have? What sorts of things can and should he be doing to effectively facilitate the planting and vitalizing of churches within his presbytery?

These are some of the basic, vitally important questions that many presbytery MNA Chairmen often don't know quite how to answer. They may have a heart for church planting and may even have been a planter themselves yet may not really have any idea for how to provide leadership in church planting beyond simply chairing the committee. In many cases, the chairman, though having a heart for outreach, really doesn't know much about church planting nor even what, if any, is the presbytery's vision or commitment for church planting, particularly if he's a ruling elder.

## **Some things to consider**

1. The primary responsibility of the MNA Presbytery Chairman is to coordinate the church planting efforts of the presbytery. A blueprint or guide for what is needed is summarized in the document listing the twelve "Critical Factors (Essential Functions) in Church Planting" provided by MNA.
2. To this end the chairman needs, more than anything else, to be a catalytic, visionary leader who is able to build and manage an effective team for initiating and overseeing the church planting efforts of the presbytery.
3. Casting vision. One of the most important things that a presbytery needs is a clear and compelling vision that is continually being updated.
  - Use the MNA Vision Statement and any regional vision statements as a guide
  - Keep yourself informed and "in the loop" by attending the Church Planter Training Conference and Key Leaders Gatherings,
  - Use report times at presbytery to remind members of the presbytery's vision as well as the overall denominational vision.

4. Building a Team. The chairman should not be the point man who does all the work but a team leader. Build a team of those passionate for the work of church planting, who are willing to learn, and who work well together.
  - Meet regularly to keep projects moving forward and to keep people on task.
  - Use subgroups to cover large regions, to give adequate oversight to church planters, and to handle specific tasks.
  - Form a “Rapid Response Team” to respond to, evaluate, and work with interested contacts and potential core groups.
  - Consider using others not on the formal team/committee for specific tasks including mentoring planters, communicating vision, developing site reports, demographics, prayer groups in local churches, etc.
  
5. Organization. Find someone to function as an administrative assistant to streamline your workload and to facilitate effective communication and the coordination of efforts. In some presbyteries it may well be worth the return on investment to make this a paid position. This person could be responsible for:
  - Writing up and coordinating with the Candidates and Credentials Committee the actual calls to apprentices and church planters.
  - Helping to review or even put together budgets and assisting with other fundraising, tax, budgeting, and fundraising issues.
  - Doing demographic studies and putting together site reports and project profiles.
  - Helping to produce key documents such as the presbytery vision statement and strategic plan.If there is no administrative assistant then these functions fall to the Chairman.
  
6. Time Requirement. A chairman should probably plan on and commit to approximately 5 hours a week to do this job well. Hopefully, every church understands how a presbytery functions and that every presbyter is called upon to serve the broader presbytery. An MNA Chairman thus needs to secure the understanding and support of his leadership to serve in this capacity. It is the local church’s ministry too and right for them to support you in this way and to participate in the broader work of the presbytery.
  
7. *Consider a long-term commitment to the chairmanship*. Continuity of leadership and smooth teamwork working with a long-term plan are crucial factors in a presbytery’s church planting efforts.