

# *Church Plant Frequently Asked Questions*

## *Is church planting biblical?*

Jesus said, **I will build my church** (Matthew 16:18). Then after sending the Holy Spirit upon his apostles, they did nothing but start new churches throughout the entire book of Acts (chs. 2, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, etc.). And so we can say that Jesus and the Holy Spirit have been about planting churches from the beginning. And we notice from church history that when the American church has not planted churches (the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, for instance) the church declined. When the church planted in obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), the church has flourished.

## *Why start a new church when churches around us are struggling?*

Think of the church like a family. If a family agreed to never have children the family would cease to

exist. On the other hand, having children keeps the parents young. In the same way, churches like grandparents some times get sick and die. We need new churches to replace them. But also new churches stimulate mature churches to new methods of ministry. New churches are the Research and Development (R & D) Department of established churches. And, new churches reach significantly more young people and unchurched people than do established churches.

## *Wait! Didn't North Branch do this before and the church died in infancy?*

Yes, that's correct. Our analysis is that we did not have the best coordination of vision, church planter and community to pull this off. After closing down *Ignited!* in 2009 the Christian Mission Committee took charge of our church plant funding and applied clearer metrics. So after a few years of evaluation, and learning from supporting other planters, North Branch is ready to be the junior/financial partner with an RCA young adult church that has planted before. Jared Ayers, our 2011

mission speaker, will hire and coach our planter, and help gather a core that North Branch will fund, pray for and help as we are able. The location of the church will be in NJ, but near Philadelphia, so that Liberti (Jared's church of 300) can help form the core.

## *What will NBRC's role in this daughter church be?*

If NBRC is the mother church then Liberti is the father church. Like any good marriage, we will do what we do best, and let them do their best.

So what do we do best? Give **money** and some hands on **support**. How much **money**? We are preparing to give \$15,000 per year for three years. That is only a \$5000 per year increase to the amount that we currently give to start new churches. What **support** do we envision? Maybe sending some folks to help with a block party to gather folks interested in a new church. Or maybe doing a joint service project in Camden to magnify the new church's heart to serve. Basically, whatever we can do well, and that is needed.

## *What will this new church plant look like?*

It will look very much like Liberti Church that Jared Ayers pastors, which looks very much like him. Liberti is filled with over 300 20- and 30-somethings that are highly educated and work in important professions. Why not go after the poor and disenfranchised? That is an important ministry too, but the focus of “yuppie ministry” is to transform the people who are transforming our culture.

### *How will this be organized?*

The Christian Mission Committee will oversee the planting and organizing of this church in conjunction with Liberti and the RCA.

Please email any other thoughts or questions to either Pastor Todd at [buurstra@nbrc.com](mailto:buurstra@nbrc.com) or CM chair, Larry Forni at [larry.forni@att.net](mailto:larry.forni@att.net). We want your voice to be heard in this discussion!

## *Members of Our Christian Mission Committee:*

Chair, Larry Forni, Lynn Ritter Cargill, Bill Cook, Violet Coy, Linda Mayerik, Barbara O'Rourke, Kathy Rue, Judy Staats, and Don Wright.

## *Our Current NBRC Vision Focus*



### *Servant Evangelism (Pointer finger)*

Since church planting is the most effective way of evangelizing, this dream fits our current vision focus.

### *How can You Help?*

*Pray for God to guide our senior partner to the planting pastor, plan and place that will reach more young adults for Christ.*

*Pray that North Branch will continue our 186 year tradition of reaching out to the community.*

*Sarah is having a baby!*

*180 year-old church is “pregnant!!”*

## **Church Start:**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

