

A Process For Starting A Healthy Vineyard Church

These are the components necessary for starting a healthy Vineyard church.



These four components are designed to help the local church facilitate church multiplication by providing framework for the encouragement, accountability, relationship, resources and training necessary for building the foundation for a successful church multiplication.

Because each church plant and planter are different, these components are designed so that sending churches and potential planters can complete them in any order and at any time throughout their time of preparation. So even though we've numbered them 1-4, please don't be limited by that.

While we could never guarantee the health and success of a church plant, when a sending church and potential planter have invested time in each of these areas of preparation as outlined, there is a far greater likelihood of a successful and healthy church plant.

1 Get To Know Us

Get involved in a local Vineyard church. In order to plant a healthy Vineyard church, the planter must first have been a part of one. There are things to be taught and there are things to be caught. In order to reproduce a reproducing church, the values and DNA of the Vineyard need to be experienced in a local Vineyard church where planters can and will be immersed in the methods, values, and relationships that make us "Vineyard." This is the best place for a church planter to learn about who the Vineyard is and grow in his or her leadership potential.

Study and embrace our statement of faith. We embrace a theology deeply-rooted in Jesus' proclamation and demonstration of the kingdom of God. In the local church setting, the planter will gain the ability to discuss this thoroughly and become comfortable demonstrating it as they both study it and interact with others.

Get to know and embody our values. While other church

planting organizations may believe some of the same things we do, our values describe not only what we believe, but how we do things and how our community feels and functions together. We are a people of the kingdom of God who:

- Partner with the Holy Spirit
- Experience and worship God
- Reconcile people with God and all creation
- Engage in compassionate ministry
- Pursue culturally relevant mission in the world

Live out the reality of our distinctives. Vineyard churches function and do life together distinctively in many ways. Several short statements sums these up: The main and the plain. The now and the not yet. Come Holy Spirit. Worshipers of God and rescuers of men. Everyone gets to play. Come as you are, but don't stay as you are. Naturally supernatural. Equipping the saints. Leaders who walk with a limp. Plant churches that will plant churches.

2 Let Us Get To Know You

We consider it an incredible gift when someone comes to us wanting to explore a life of ministry and possibly church planting. We want to help in discerning how and where God might be calling potential planters to invest their life, whether it be international or domestic church planting, senior pastoring, site or campus pastoring, or pursuing additional training, education or healing. We consider these conversations as an extended act of pastoral care.

We have developed a **relational discernment process** that takes place over the course of four conversations. The first two take place in the context of the local church, and the second two take place with members of our Multiply Vineyard team. While it might be tempting to rush this process,

Multiply Vineyard



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The sweet spot is where these all come together



or skip certain parts, discernment is best expressed in community and through a relational process, where we can thoroughly hear God's voice together and follow his lead.

Conversation 1: "Am I Called To Be A Church Planter?"

The potential church planter can visit <http://www.multiplyvineyard.com/am-i-called-to-be-a-church-planter/> for a list of important questions to prayerfully read and consider. The potential planter then meets with the overseeing pastor to talk through their responses and determine whether or not church planting is a good fit.

Conversation 2: Online Church Planter Assessment

The potential planter takes a series of very helpful online assessments (a \$29 cost) and begins working with their overseeing pastor to develop a path for further development. It is located at <http://churchplanter.lifeway.com/organization/131/>

Conversation 3: Pastoral Interview

If church planting continues to appear a good match, we will arrange for a pastoral interview with one of our trained pastoral assessors. This interview averages three to four hours in length and covers the twelve characteristics necessary to be a Vineyard church planter, and is accompanied by prayer ministry.

Conversation 4: In-Depth Church Planting Evaluation

We encourage planters to complete a full psychological assessment to help determine their readiness for church planting, highlight any pitfalls that might eventually cause ministry burn-out and aid in identifying areas for development/preparation, and thus increase likelihood of personal and ministry goals being realized. The results of this assessment are discussed with the senior pastor and the potential planter.

3 Get Some Training

Training is a vital piece to a church planter's health and success. We value knowledge and preparation and encourage potential church planters to seek out guidance and training from our local and regional pastors.

Local Church-Based Training Templates. We believe that churches of all sizes can participate in training by providing education and hands-on ministry opportunities to potential planters. There are lots of ways to accomplish this including immersion schools, residency programs, internships, serving as a staff pastor, etc. The local church remains the very best

place for hands-on training and development of church planters, and we are developing the resources to help.

Vineyard Intensive Church Planting Courses.

We have developed curriculum for 4 different church planting courses that can augment the local training. Training topics include: discovering your call, developing a team, getting and staying healthy as a planter, identifying and recruiting leaders, stages of team and church development, growing the church plant, etc. Check out the VI site as these courses become available. (<http://vineyardinstitute.org>)

A National Church Planting Intensive

Every other year, the Multiply Vineyard team plans to offer a nation-wide training opportunity for church planters. We will be inviting pastors and leaders to share on topics specifically related to leadership development and church planting. This will be a time for our planters to hear from the best the Vineyard movement has to offer.

4 Get Connected

Getting connected to a coach. The Multiply Vineyard team has developed a great system for coaching church planters. Currently, we have trained a team pastors and leaders who are available to come alongside our church planters and assist them in developing a plan for the first two years of the church plant and help maintain accountability and relationship with the planter while they are planting the church.

Getting connected to Area and Regional Leaders. We believe that in order to be a healthy church plant, planters must get connected to the area churches, pastors and leadership around them. It is vital that a connection is made prior to planting and as soon as a target area has been identified, so that they feel supported from and encouraged by the area pastors and regional leadership, and have opportunity to give back to the Vineyard movement.

Getting connected to the national movement through the Release Form and Documentation. In order to be recognized by the Vineyard as an official church, planters must complete the release form and work with the national office on completing licensing and trademark agreements.

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