

Carolina Conference

Mission Group Application

Name of Mother Church: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Group Name: _____

Date of Business Meeting : _____

Date of Application: _____

New Group Requirements

1. Weekly core group meetings for the purpose of spiritual fellowship and strategic church plant planning should occur for a 6-12 month "incubation" period.
 - This "incubation" period should happen consistently before the Mission Group begins Sabbath worship services.
 - Groups desiring to plant must use the A.C.T.S workbook and plan to be part of a training cohort sponsored by North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) and the Carolina Conference Church Planting Department.
 - The mother church must hold a business meeting to approve sponsorship of the church plant and elect a volunteer lay pastor/ leader.

Utilizing the "**TRAINING**" section of the A.C.T.S. workbook (pp. 18-20), Share the Following:

1. Pray and Recruit:

1. Prepare - How will you prepare an existing church(es) in the area (if there are any) to become sponsor(s)?
2. Prayer - How are you creating intentional and regular prayer for workers?
2. Recruit - How will you recruit from existing members and/or disciple new believers to form a core group?

2. **Lay out Vision:**

1. Incubate - What will your process for regular core group meetings (typically 6-12 months) look like?
2. Visioning - How will you develop a vision through engaging deeply with Scripture, your community, and your team?
3. Communication - In what ways will you communicate this vision to grow the involvement of others?

3. **Activate Ministry:**

1. Rhythms - How are you developing rhythms of living on mission both as individuals and through the core group/groups that you are developing?
2. Disciple-making and Evangelism - How are you planting ministries in the community, sharing the gospel, and actively discipling new people?
3. Metrics - What are your scorecards and metrics for what success means in your context?

4. **Navigate Worship:**

1. Why - What is the purpose of starting worship gatherings and how will they contribute to the vision of the new church?
2. Logistics - Whether you are planting a mega-church or a micro-church, what type of environment, format, location (s), dates, and roles will be needed?
3. Launch team - How will you build a launch team - whether simple or complex, how will the purpose and expectations for involvement overlap what that of the core group, and how will you develop momentum towards the launch?

5. **Train and Send:**

1. Multiplying Mindset - in what ways will you instill a multiplying mindset in everything you do from the beginning?
2. At every level - how will you develop disciples who make disciples, group/ministry leaders that form a new leaders, etc.?

3. Sending - How can your church budget set funds aside towards the next plant, and who is in the process of being internally sent out to plant?
2. New Mission Groups must develop a 2-year plan for church growth (Include outreach events, stewardship plan, and etc.)
 - Please attach your 2-Year Church Growth Plan
3. New Mission Groups must work with the Conference appointed pastor and the elected Volunteer Lay Pastor/Leader (VLP). The pastor and VLP must read, accept, and sign the “Strategy for Lay-led Churches” document and “Coaching Covenant.” These documents will also be shared with the core group.
 - Please attach your signed “Coaching Covenant.”
4. New Mission Groups desiring to progress to “company” and eventually “church” statuses must be planted in communities that have a population of 25,000+, be within a 25-minute-drive of the population base, and be growing community.
5. Each new Mission Group must originate within and maintain a positive relationship with a sponsoring Carolina Conference church from which they take counsel, and whose pastor supports the effort. If the sponsoring church is English speaking for a non-English-speaking group, there should be a bi-lingual leader in the non-English-speaking group to facilitate communication.

6. The core group of the Mission Group should be seasoned Seventh-day Adventist members in regular standing.
 - All Mission Group members must hold membership in the mother church.
 - The mother church must elect the lay leader of the Mission Group as a board member.
 - The VLP should be elected during each nominating process with guidance and approval from the pastor and the Mission Group.

7. Finances of the Mission Group, both income and expenses, shall flow through the mother church, and its bank accounts.
 - The treasurer of the mother church will account for the tithes and offerings and disburse funds in harmony with the will of the Mission Group, the guidelines of the sponsoring church and the policies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - While Mission Groups shall not have separate bank accounts, Mission Groups may maintain a “petty cash” or similar arrangement for limited expenditures when coordinated with the sponsoring church.
 - A treasurer for the Mission Group shall be elected to be accountable for the finances of the group, convey tithes and offerings to the mother church treasurer, and be the custodian of “petty cash.”
 - The conference auditor or their representative will be available for training and support.
 - Financial records will be available for the Mission Group from the mother church treasurer. Any requests for exceptions to policy should be submitted to Conference Treasury Department.

8. All Mission Groups are asked to designate a minimum of 30% of their combined budget to outreach (i.e., public evangelism, Bible studies, and other events focused on reaching non-Adventists).
 - Current % allocated in the Combined Budget _____%

9. In order to be established as a Mission Group, the pastor and core group members must meet with the Carolina Conference Church Planting Committee once this application is received and reviewed. The Church Planting Department will arrange this meeting.
10. Buildings and land should ***not*** be purchased for or by congregations while they are at Mission Group status.
11. Organized Mission Groups should make it a priority to attend annual a) conference church planting rallies, b) lay-leader/pastor training events, and c) other training events (i.e. elders' or deacons' retreat) to enhance their experience.
12. Does the Mission Group believe, support, and teach the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church?
- Yes No
13. Does the Mission Group have any practices that go beyond SDA doctrines and practices?
- Yes No

Does your Mission Group meet all of the aforementioned guidelines?

Yes No

Signature – Pastor

Signature – Volunteer Lay Pastor/Leader

**Please email completed application to Lorraine Gonzalez: lgonzalez@carolinasda.org*