

Practical Ways to Help a Church Plant

Pray intentionally for a planting couple and their team.

Prayer is the primary work of God's people. You and your church can partner in this vital way by encouraging a new plant through prayer. Would your church consider "adopting" a local church planter and pray regularly and intentionally for that leader's church?

Invite a planter to share their vision with your board and church.

Having the opportunity to share what God is doing, to share prayer needs, and to be prayed for by a local church is an incredible way to encourage a planter. Consider this also a great way to cast vision to your people in the process.

Take an offering for a church plant.

If you regularly take a benevolent (or some other special) offering, consider switching it up for one month and taking an offering for a church plant and then delivering the gift in-person.

Send the church planting couple on a date.

Whether it's tight finances or the lack of childcare, date nights for a planter and his wife can be hard to come by.

Offer childcare for a Sunday.

Church plants, just like your church, aren't exactly tripping over kid's ministry volunteers, so consider sending over a pinch-hit team for a Sunday.

Send them encouragement cards.

Have cards laid out on the seats at your church, and after highlighting the church plant and planter and praying for them in your service, take a few minutes to have people fill out a card with an encouraging message. Hand-deliver these cards the following week.

Encourage your congregation to hold a "baby church shower" for a plant.

Give them gifts for their startup (office supplies, a/v equipment, etc.). Planters can put together a "registry" of items they need, if this is something your church would like to do.

Plan to put church planting as a line item into your next budget.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be. One of the best ways to encourage church planting is to talk about it in your church, share inspiring stories, and start budgeting for it.

Send team members from your church to participate in a church plant.

God owns everything and we are managers. Please consider sending the leaders God has called from your church to plant a new work.

Use your church facility for church planting teams, services, or training.

Allow a church plant to use your facility for team meetings, events, or even services if the room isn't in use at that time. Consider hosting a church planting training event at your church.

Develop and deploy a planter and team from your church to start a new work.

The District staff is ready and resourced to assist you in becoming a Greenhouse Church that develops and deploys leaders and church planters. Contact Chris to get started!

Go on a grocery run.

This one's simple: get a bunch of groceries together and give them to the planter and his family.

Take the planter out to lunch.

Church planting can be very lonely and discouraging work. Spending some time to connect, listen, encourage, and pray for the planter (and maybe even the plant team) can be a great encouragement.

Donate gently used equipment.

Church planting budgets are tight, so any unexpected gifts are a real blessing. Consider items like sound equipment, children's and nursery supplies, and office equipment.

Offer childcare for a leadership night.

Whether it's for a leadership meeting, or maybe simply an evening of date nights for the plant team, providing some distraction-free space is life-giving.

Ask the planter what their greatest needs are.

This one is so simple, but often we walk right past it. Rather than trying to anticipate what a church planter may need in the moment, just ask. Often their greatest needs aren't physical needs like chairs or sound equipment, but rather they're related to other less tangible resources like coaching, web development, or advice on a particular dilemma.