

Church Planting Partnerships

Doing more together than we could ever do on our own.

An African proverb says, "If you want to go fast— go alone. If you want to go far—go together."

Multiply Vineyard believes that every single Vineyard church can be a parent of new churches and is committed to providing resources for pastors, local churches, and church planters to help them participate in what God is inviting them into. One effective resource that we have is our church planting partnerships.

WHAT IS A PARTNERSHIP?

A church planting partnership consists of pastors and churches who come together to plant churches in a specific target area; these areas may be geographic, demographic, or interest-based. Together, along with the people living in the target areas, partnerships develop a vision and strategic plans and set specific goals towards starting churches in neighboring towns and cities.

*Every church a parent. Every church a partner.
Everyone gets to play.*

WHY PARTNER TOGETHER?

Forming a church planting partnership empowers pastors to cultivate vision and support, build shared resources and plant more churches. Partnerships provide opportunities for everyone to participate in multiplication by allowing everyone to share vision and resources to plant churches. This means that every church, regardless of size, can be a part of church planting.

1. Cultivate vision and support. Why is vision better when it comes from more than one person? The power of discerning together what God is doing in specific area is always greater when done in community. In the Vineyard, we consider discernment a team sport.

2. Build shared resources. Church planting partnerships make it possible for churches with limited resources to still participate in multiplication. Working together takes the pressure off of one church having to provide all of the resources such as leaders, finances, and training.

Instead of being responsible for all of these, partners contribute and share what they can. In partnership, the total burden does not fall onto one church; This means the church plant is more consistent because it has reliable support from more than one source.

3. Plant more churches. We can do more together than we can on our own! Partnerships have been the model for planting churches internationally through Vineyard missions for years. Domestically in the US we have begun to see the value in this same model of partnerships.

WHAT IS A CHURCH PLANTING TRIAD?

One method of partnerships that has been proven effective in the United States are church planting triads. A triad is a group of three pastors who share a common vision and passion for church planting in a specific geographic area and work together to plant churches. Together, they flesh out vision, set specific goals, identify shared resources and coach each other. For more information on triads, visit www.multiply-vineyard.org.

RECRUITING NEW PARTNER CHURCHES

You may be interested in this possibility. The idea of not shouldering the load for an entire church plant may sound hopeful and exciting. Great! We want to encourage you to start just where you are at to begin building your partnership.

Making a partnership run effectively typically requires at least three or four partnering churches equally committed to your common vision. With your partnership still in development, you will want to continue investing your time and resources to gathering additional churches. Perhaps your goal can be eight churches within one year or two years of your Partnership's formation. So, how can you recruit these churches? Here are a few thoughts to consider:

Starting With Those You Know

- What other Vineyard pastors do you know who are either not yet involved in a partnership or are interested in getting more deeply vested in church planting?

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- Ask your Area Leader if you can share at your next area meeting about your partnership, and if possible invite your Area Leader to join you in the partnership.
- Speak to your Area Leader and Multiply Vineyard Regional Representative about churches in your area that might have already inquired about increasing their church planting involvement.
- Think of creative ways of exposing other pastors to what you believe God is doing and how He's calling you, your church, and your partnership to be involved. Great leaders begin by modeling the vision at home.

Making Connections with Other Vineyard Pastors

- Your Multiply Vineyard Regional Rep may be able to tell you if another Vineyard has begun a partnership in your region. To see if there is something happening make sure you contact them. Contact information for the Multiply Vineyard team can be found here: <http://multiplyvineyard.org/our-team/>
- If there is a church not already involved in church planting, then connect with them. But remember, if you don't have relational equity with them, you'll need to inspire them within the first minute or two of your conversation.
- Face-to-face conversations work best whenever possible. Take a day off and drive out to visit a few Vineyard pastors who are interested and "sell" your vision.
- Provide them with quality resource materials such as books or DVDs that have inspired your interest in church planting. Multiply Vineyard and Vineyard resources would be glad to point you to more resources for this.

What Do Prospective Churches Need to Know?

- They need to get excited by the vision and dreams that excites you.
- They need to know what is expected of them.
- They need to understand how this will benefit the Kingdom of God and their congregation.
- They need to know the process for getting involved.

Remember to be well-prepared for any meeting you might have. Think through how you will share the vision and opportunity to partner together in this endeavor.

The Two Best Recruitment Tools:

- We have found that one of the two best recruitment tools is to connect with those Vineyard leaders and pastors with whom you already have equity.
- The second best recruitment tool is to prayerfully invite Vineyard pastors on a short trip with you and/or your partnership to one or more of the locations where you feel God is calling you to plant churches. When you are in that location casting the vision that you feel God has given you, it often sinks deeper into the hearts of those with you.

NEXT STEPS

All partnerships may experience challenges along the way to seeing your vision fulfilled. However, there will certainly be many more opportunities and victories along the way as you begin to raise up leaders, evangelize, and disciple people in the communities you are focusing on. Stay on mission and do not lose heart. We will look forward to celebrating with you the establishment of new Vineyard Churches in the communities around you.

Are you interested in taking some steps in building a partnership?

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Contact our Multiply Vineyard team for resources at office@multiplyvineyard.org
3. Begin to recruit others around you to join.