

# How to Partner With La Viña

Our desire as people of the kingdom of God is to reach people all over the world with the good news of Jesus. To do that, we need to build relationship with all different kinds of people, people of every tribe, nation, and tongue. As a group of over 56 million people, hispanics are the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States. In fact, we have Spanish speaking neighbors in every one of our communities. We really believe that the best way for our Spanish speaking neighbors to experience Christ in a Vineyard church is for them to do so in their own language. This is why we are planting new Spanish speaking La Viña churches throughout America.

We'd like to invite you to join us. Would you begin or continue to pray about supporting and encouraging a new la Viña in your community? You can start participating with what God is doing with Latinos and in La Viña churches at many different levels of support. We've found that the following 4 different levels of commitment work well to begin the conversation:

1. Use of Building and Prayer Support
2. Use of Building and Prayer Support and Use of Church Equipment
3. Use of Building and Prayer Support and Use of Church Equipment and Financial Support
4. Full Support

## Levels of Commitment & Setting Healthy Expectations

In order to have a healthy relationship between English-speaking pastors and their Spanish speaking planters, both pastors (Spanish and English speaking) should begin to discern what kind of commitment God is asking each of them to make to this partnership. Then it's important to communicate clearly the respective levels of commitment and specific expectations. The more specific the expectations and the earlier they are expressed, the more potential for conflict will be removed.

Below are the 4 levels of commitment and some expectations that both parties should consider and clarify with each other.

### Level of Commitment 1: Use of Building and Prayer Support

This level of commitment includes letting a La Viña meet in your building at least two days of the week, one for their service and another weekday for events, meetings, or other uses. This would most often also include allowing La Viña to use at least three rooms of your building during their weekly service, one room for adults and at least two for children. Other important parts of this commitment is consistent prayer for the new La Viña and regularly communicating to the English speaking church about this important work.

## Expectations To Cover For Level 1

It's important to cover the expectations you have after you've made your commitment. To avoid unnecessary confusion and conflict, here are some of the topics you will want to cover:

- Will use of the building be free of charge or not? If La Viña will be expected to contribute rent, what amount will they pay? We recommend you sign a lease agreement.
- What specific days and times can La Viña use the building?
- What specific rooms can La Viña use?
- Can La Viña put a sign or a number of signs in Spanish outside the church and inside the church as well?
- Will the English-speaking church require background checks from the La Viña church staff and volunteers?
- Will La Viña be responsible for cleaning the rooms after using them?
- Will La Viña be responsible for repairing or replacing damaged property?
- How many days in advance does La Viña need to reserve rooms or the entire building for a special event?
- Will the Spanish-speaking church planter receive a key to the building? Will they be able to give copies to other La Viña leaders?
- Will La Viña be responsible for turning off and on an alarm system in the building?
- Will La Viña be responsible for paying utility bills? What is the specific amount or percentages of the bill(s)?
- Will La Viña contribute to the maintenance of the building, like mowing lawn, painting, etc.?
- What other tasks will La Viña be responsible for in regards to the use of the building, like cleaning the kitchen, replacing light bulbs, washing windows, etc.?
- Will La Viña need to have their own insurance?
- Who will provide training for the proper use of the building, for example how to turn the alarm on system, how to turn lights on and off, specifics for cleaning, how to reserve the building for a special event, and so forth?

“Our Hispanic ministry has full access to our building. We share calendars, but there is still some overlap and confusion with calendar issues at times. We tend to plan out several months, while the Hispanic ministry is a bit more fluid.”

—Jon Sterns, Pastor of the Franklin Vineyard

## Level of Commitment 2: Use of Building and Prayer Support + Use of Church Equipment

This level of commitment includes everything stated in the first level and includes letting La Viña use your church's equipment. This could include the following:

- Sound system (microphones, speakers, amplifiers, mixer, cables, etc.)
- Musical instruments (keyboard, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum-set, percussion set, etc.)
- Projector and computer (to project lyrics, powerpoint presentations and videos)
- Photocopier
- Tables and chairs
- Internet and/or wifi
- Blackboards or whiteboards
- Kitchen and kitchen equipment or appliances
- Church car, van, mini-van or bus

### Expectations to cover for level 2

To prepare for this commitment, you should discuss the following topics related to the access to and upkeep of your church's equipment:

- Will the use of the church equipment be free of charge? Or what amount will La Viña pay to rent the equipment?
- What days and times can La Viña use the church equipment?
- Will La Viña be allowed to have their own sound person or will the English-speaking church provide their own?
- Will La Viña be responsible for cleaning the church equipment after using it?
- Will La Viña have access to the wifi throughout the building? If so, what is the password?
- Will La Viña be responsible for repairing or replacing damaged church equipment?
- Who will provide training for the proper use of the church equipment (how to turn sound system on and off, how to turn projector and computer on and off, how to use photocopier and so forth)?

“We are moving towards shared interior signage but we have a shared exterior signage on our two visible monument signs. This is a huge validation of our commitment to Hispanic ministry community.”

—Jon Sterns, Pastor of the Franklin Vineyard

### **Level of Commitment 3: Use of Building and Prayer Support + Use of Church Equipment + Financial Support**

This level of commitment includes everything stated in level 2 plus financial support for the planter or ministry. By providing financial support for the sustenance of the church planter, they are able to dedicate more of their time and energy to the church plant.

#### **Expectations to cover for level 3**

Levels of financial support vary by church. Begin to have conversations about the amount of support and the accountability structures related to the support by discussing the following topics:

- If the English-speaking church is providing some kind of financial support for the La Viña leader/church planter, what kind of support are they giving? Is it a salary? Is it a love offering? Is it missionary support?
- If the English-speaking church is providing financial support for the La Viña leader or church planter, what are the expectations of the English-speaking pastor/church? Does the La Viña leader/church planter have to give a report? Write a newsletter?
- If the English-speaking church is hiring the Spanish-speaking church planter/leader what are the expectations of the English-speaking church? Will they need to attend staff meetings? Will they have to work a certain amount of hours a week? Will they need to fulfill certain tasks not related to the La Viña?
- Is there going to be some kind of accountability structure? What will that look like?
- Is the English-speaking church going to provide financial support to the La Viña church or the Spanish-speaking ministry to cover costs of ministry in addition to providing financial support for the church planter or leader?
- Is the English-speaking church going to provide financial support for the La Viña church planter to attend Vineyard events such as regional and national conferences?

“In our church, if rooms are available they can be used by La Viña, they have to sign up just like all other ministries in the church. We have had many conversations about room use and security for children. One important challenge at our church is that for some Latino families, their approach to supervising their children does not mesh well with the church’s need to make sure all children are safe in a large building and congregation where we don’t know everyone and someone who is a danger to children could walk in anytime.”

—Steve Nicholson, Pastor of the Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston

### **Level of Commitment 4: Full Support**

This level of commitment includes everything stated in level 3 plus any other support agreed upon by both parties. One of the main needs may be helping an undocumented or a documented non-resident church planter apply for a religious worker visa (R-1). This could involve hiring an immigration lawyer, filling out paperwork, or paying related fees. Another way to support could be to hire the La Viña pastor or paying him a full salary, providing health insurance for him and his family, or contributing for their retirement savings.

### **Expectations to cover for level 4:**

- What can the Spanish-speaking leader/church planter expect that the English-speaking church will do to help them obtain legal or residency status?
- What other commitments are you making and what problems could you foresee? How can you prevent them?

### **Church Autonomy**

It is important that both the English and Spanish speaking pastors communicate clearly their vision for the future of La Viña or the Spanish-speaking ministry. You should discuss in detail about the level of autonomy, casting vision for where you would like the ministry to start and where would you like to see it end up.

La Viñas usually fall in one of four categories:

1. The English-speaking pastor wants to have a multi-ethnic or multi-cultural church, therefore all the Spanish-speaking people will be integrated into their church. In these cases, the Spanish-speaking leader usually serves as a liaison, interpreter, or facilitator.
2. Both the English-speaking pastor and the Spanish-speaking leader want to form a La Viña as a ministry of the English-speaking church. This means that La Viña functions under the leadership of the English-speaking pastor and works very much like a children's or youth ministry.
3. Both the English-speaking pastor and the Spanish-speaking leader want to form a La Viña as a ministry of the English-speaking church with a goal of someday turning it into an autonomous La Viña church.
4. Both the English-speaking pastor and the Spanish-speaking leader partner to plant a La Viña. This means that the English-speaking pastor hosts or supports the La Viña, but La Viña is an autonomous church plant from the beginning.

### **Other Questions To Cover**

As you continue to discern together, and communicate expectations and vision, here are some other questions you may want to cover:

- What opportunities will the pastors create to worship together?
- Will there be a joint bilingual services? If so, how often?

- Will the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking pastors meet for accountability or spiritual support? If so, how often?
- How will the pastors navigate their cultural differences? For instance, different ideas of time, noise, smells, communication, etc.
- What kind of benevolence policy will there be? Who will make decisions regarding giving out benevolence money?
- What kind of process will there be for inviting outside speakers into the church?

We have seen amazing fruit from the La Viñas hosted and supported by Vineyard churches around the country. In the last 4 years, 30 new La Viñas have been planted which includes 18 new churches and 12 new Hispanic ministries. 17 of these were hosted or supported by an English-speaking Vineyard church. We can do much more together than we can do alone. How is God asking you to participate in what he is doing with the Spanish speaking people in your neighborhood, town, and city?

“We do joint baptism services, which are great fun twice a year. Everything in those services are done in both languages. We do not participate in most of their outreaches, but we also do one very large event to celebrate Hispanic heritage that everyone invited to.”

—Steve Nicholson, Pastor of the Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston

## Next Steps

If you think you are ready to take the next step, contact one of our La Viña Multiplica representatives.

- Miguel Avilés (MN, WI, NJ, NY) - miguelaviles@gmail.com or (612) 567-9777
- Rubén Quintero (CA, AZ, CO) - rubenq77@hotmail.com or (760) 425-5823
- Marvin Suárez (PR, FL) - lavinamayaguez@gmail.com or (787) 410-8462
- Homero García (IL, IA, OH, TN, TX, NC) - hckkgarcia@comcast.net or (224) 433-9854
- Mauricio Villamizar (admin) - maojosevillamizar@gmail.com or (224) 723-0324

If you aren't ready to make any of these levels of commitment, perhaps you can be part of our vision in other ways. Here are three examples of other ways you can participate:

**Pray**

Join the La Viña Intercessors group and commit to pray for 200 seconds for 200 La Viñas every time you receive a La Viña Intercessors email. Thank you for praying for the vision the church planters, and their needs. Email us at [hckkgarcia@comcast.net](mailto:hckkgarcia@comcast.net) to be added to our group.

**Provide**

If you know someone you know who might be interested in answering God's call to planting a La Viña or someone in whom you see the potential to start a La Viña, connect with us. We will be able to begin to facilitate a discernment process for this potential planter.

**Partner**

The La Viña USA Partnership was created help reach the goal of planting 200 La Viñas in 10 years. This partnership functions like any other partnerships in the Vineyard, a group of churches shares their resources to help us plant La Viña churches here in the US. If you and your church would like to be part of this partnership contact us at [hckkgarcia@comcast.net](mailto:hckkgarcia@comcast.net).

Our relationship with our English-speaking brothers and sisters has been wonderful from the beginning. Sometimes we have combined bilingual services and it feels a little bit like heaven. South Metro Vineyard has supported us over the years by allowing us to use their church building and their church equipment.

—Miguel Aviles, Pastor of La Viña in Burnsville, Minnesota

La Viña Multiplica is part of Multiply Vineyard. Multiply Vineyard extends the kingdom of God by helping our local Vineyard churches fulfill their God-given call to multiply the church.