

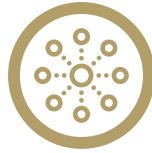
NEW CHURCH



RESTART



NEW SITE



EXPAND



TUNE-UP



A S S I S T
BOOTCAMP

PREWORK



A S S I S T
CHURCH EXPANSION

At Assist Church Expansion we believe that the most effective way to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and fulfill the Great Commission is through strategic and healthy church multiplication. The local church, is the carrier of the gospel, the visible presence of Jesus on earth today and the intercessor for a world that desperately needs to meet the one and only Savior. We are driven by the desire to see the Charis Fellowship of Churches become a movement across North American, bringing the hope of the gospel to every corner of our continent.

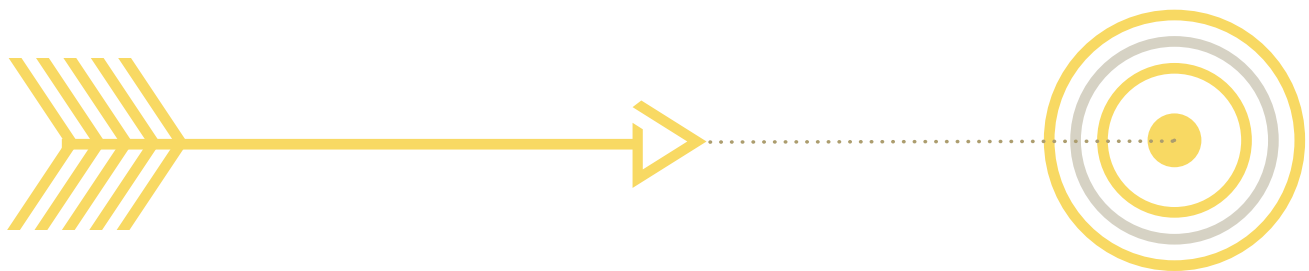
If you believe you are called to see your church expand its gospel influence through multiplication or expansion, it is our desire to partner with you to make that happen.

The exercises in this workbook are intended to provide you with a starting point for developing a strategic plan for expansion. It is designed for churches that may be expanding through church planting, multisite, revitalization or merger.

We encourage you to work through the questions in this workbook with your leadership team and to bring it with you when you participate in the next Assist Bootcamp.

In addition to this workbook, we suggest that you also complete the Church Health Check-Up Tool with your leadership team.

Together, we pray with you, that the process of this exercise will bring you greater unity and clarity in your plans to expand and that God will bless you with an abundant harvest of new and growing disciples.



START WITH 'WHY'

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We begin with the assumption that if you are going through this exercise that you have some general idea about WHAT you believe you might need to be doing.

- Plant a church?
- Launch a campus?
- Merge with another church?
- Revitalize or replant your church?

At this point, it is not that vital that you know exactly WHAT you should be doing.

We are going to begin with WHY, because the WHAT and the HOW - and even the WHERE - might change, but your WHY is a constant. It will provide the driving purpose behind what you do and influence where and how you do it.

The more clearly you can articulate WHY you need to take a new or different step, the more effectively you can build a strategy to accomplish your goal.

IDENTIFY THE 'WHY'

Read the scriptures listed below. What do they say about the purpose and mission of the church? How may they help you develop a purpose statement for your church?

Matthew 28:19-20

I Peter 2:1-5; 9-12

Acts 1:8

Matthew 16:18

Ephesians 2:1-9

Ephesians 4:11-16

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Acts 2:42-47

Colossians 4:5-6

Colossians 3:12-16

Hebrews 10:25

If Jesus returned today, what would you want the church to be doing?

If Jesus returned today, what would you be ashamed that you are not doing?

Why does the church exist? What is God's purpose for the church?

What do you believe God wants you to do?

Why is it important to God that you do this?

Why is important to the future of your church that you do this?

Empty text box for church future importance.

Why is it important to you personally that you do this?

Empty text box for personal importance.

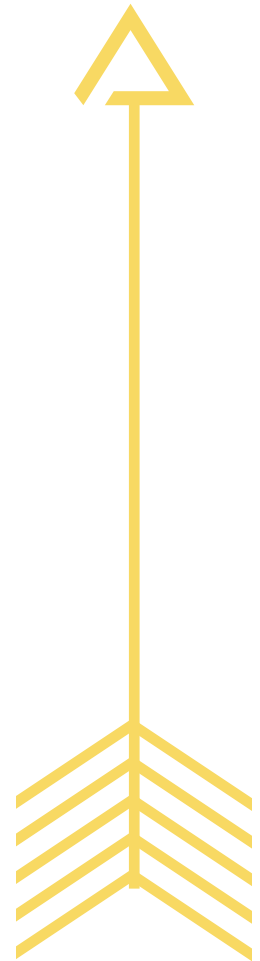
What do you believe are the positive outcomes of taking this step?

Empty text box for positive outcomes.

What do you believe are the negative outcomes if you do not take this step?

Empty text box for negative outcomes.

WHY



INTRINSIC vs RELATIONAL VALUES

There are essentially two ways to categorize the things that we value in our culture. They are either **INTRINSIC** or **RELATIONAL**.

INTRINSIC values are those that have value regardless of our relationship to them or to one another.

An example of an **INTRINSIC** value is “the authority of the Bible.” It is not subjective nor does it depend on our relationship to it or to one another.

A **RELATIONAL** value is one that essentially governs the relationships that we have with one another (and God).

An example of a **RELATIONAL** value would be “grace.” Grace governs our relationship with God. It ought to govern our relationships with one another and also with those who do not yet know God.

Using these definitions, go back through your list and indicate in the second column which values are **INTRINSIC (I)** and which are **RELATIONAL (R)**.

CORE vs ASPIRATIONAL VALUES

Most often when we speak of our values, we use the term **CORE VALUES**. However, it should be pointed out that often what we believe is a **CORE VALUE** is really more of something we **ASPIRE** to than we actually live out.

Perhaps you identified **SERVANTHOOD** as a **CORE VALUE**. And it may very be a **CORE VALUE**. But as you examine the life of your church you realize that only about 2 out of 10 adults is actively volunteering in a ministry and that your nursery staff is burning out because they are overscheduled and never get breaks.

We might suggest in a scenario like this that **SERVANTHOOD** is an **ASPIRATIONAL VALUE** but not yet a **CORE VALUE**.

ASPIRATIONAL VALUES must become **CORE VALUES** in order for your church to be successful and fulfill your mission.

Review your list of **VALUES** and indicate in the third column which of those values are **CORE (C)** and which are **ASPIRATIONAL (A)**.

Which five or six of the values on your list (**CORE OR ASPIRATIONAL**) will be 100% necessary for you to be successful in moving ahead with your future opportunity?

Are there any values on your list that you believe might be a hindrance to your future expansion?

WHO WILL YOU REACH?

WHO WILL YOU REACH?

Who do you believe you are called to reach? And how well do you know them? Spend some time with your team to describe the key characteristics of the people you see as your potential target.

Age range:

Socio-economic status:

Marital status:

Children? Ages?

Education level(s):

What types of occupations?

How do they spend their time? What things are most important to them?

What are their spiritual beliefs? Church background? Other religion?

Who are their cultural heroes?

How would they define masculinity?

How would they define femininity?

How do they view authority?

What does security look like?

What are the social issues or conflicts that would be a concern to them?

What are the popular forms of "art" to your target group?

What do you think they believe about you?

Who are you listening to in this target group to get your insight?

Who else do you need to be listening to?

What other church(in your area is effectively reaching this target demographic?

What churches outside of your geographic area do you know of who are reaching this target demographic?

List 3-5 activities that you and your church can do or should do in the next year to get to know this target person at a deeper level?



CULTURE QUIZ

YOUR CHURCH CULTURE

Another key factor to defining WHO you are as a church is understanding your church culture. More than what we say or what we believe, our culture shapes the way people think about us. Every church has a “culture” of some sort, whether it has been intentionally developed or not. Let’s take some time to evaluate your church culture.

PHILOSOPHY

How would you describe your philosophy of ministry?

How would you describe your philosophy of evangelism?

How would you describe your philosophy of leadership?

TRADITIONS

What kind of traditions (written or unwritten) are a part of your church's regular lifecycle?

LANGUAGE

Are there key words or phrases that are used in your church that might be unique to your church family?

MEASUREMENTS

What do you measure in your church?

What do you not measure that could be measurable?

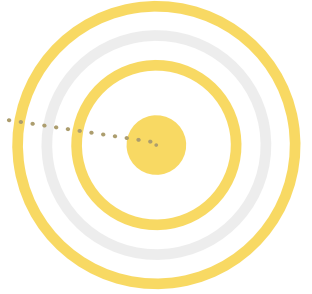
In what ways will the unique characteristics of your church culture help you accomplish the mission in your new opportunity?

Can you identify any characteristics of your church culture that might hinder your ability to be successful in your future opportunity?

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

WHERE?

There are a variety of factors that may influence WHERE you venture into your new ministry opportunity. Chances are, you already have an idea about a city or region that seems likely or logical. Perhaps it is already ordained!



Or perhaps you have a variety of options and you are attempting to discern the most providential location.

WHERE IS GOD ALREADY AT WORK?

“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” – Jesus (John 5:17)

The Gospels and Acts give us a variety of examples of how the Gospel is often profoundly fruitful. Most notable would be the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch, Lydia and, of course, the Apostle Paul, himself.

As you consider WHERE you may focus your efforts at expansion or renewal, consider the following questions:

Where has God brought together a group of people who know they need Him?

Where has God wonderfully answered a prayer?

Where has God raised up leadership?

Where do you note a person of peace, a missionary or evangelistic gatherer?

Where do you see a community or neighborhood in transition?

