

Planting Churches in a Reformed Presbyterian Context

Biblical Truths. Practical Reality.

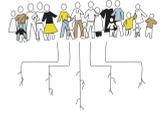
A One-Day Workshop

Speaker: Jonathan Haney, from Manhattan Reformed Presbyterian Church,
Kansas

9am - 2pm, March 28th, 2014

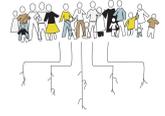
Where: McKinnon Reformed Presbyterian Church 261a McKinnon Rd., McKinnon

Talk 1: The Biblical Mandate and Model of Church Planting



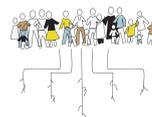
1. Foundational Focus

- a. Jerusalem
- b. Antioch
- c. Back to Jerusalem
- d. Back to Antioch
- e. The need for local elders



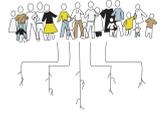
Talk 2: The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us in Manhattan, Kansas

1. Church Planting in the Midwest Presbytery
2. Outreach in Manhattan
3. Congregational Worship and Life in a Church Plant
4. Staying Positive
5. Staying Real



Lessons considered in light of the ending of several new works in recent years.

1. Presbyteries and the HMB should act strategically when deciding where to begin new works, considering such issues as strategic cities, proximity to other RP Churches, etc.
2. We must be careful to be sure that the core group and the church planter have sufficient vision for a full orb ed ministry in their area that goes beyond the desire just to have a "psalm singing church" for themselves.
3. There must be careful and sufficient planning before sending a church planter to a location, resisting the desire to be in too much of a hurry.
4. A church planter must have a written practical theology of church planting worked out before being finally approved for a particular ministry.
5. The Presbytery and the man must be sure that the man's practical theology of church planting and abilities are appropriate for the particular ministry for which he is being considered.
6. There needs to be a "hunger" in the church planter for God and for ministry that will result in willingness for personal sacrifice.
7. There can be great value for the potential church planter from an internship with an experienced pastor before being assigned to a new ministry.
8. Special care must be taken to thoroughly evaluate untested men coming immediately out of seminary to a new work.
9. Care must be taken to discern the support of a potential church planter's family.
10. When evaluating the core group in a potential new ministry, care must be taken to discern if any of them have a "personal agenda" that is incompatible with our purposes and plans.
11. If at all possible, a core group should be developed, functioning well together and doing some outreach before the church planter arrives.
12. Careful and rigorous attention must be given to the situation in a field being evaluated, considering such issues as population, accessibility and distance for those who will be coming to support the new work, etc.
13. Be careful to maintain the focus on outreach, especially during the first 2-3 years.
14. Discernment must be exercised about the appropriate time to begin morning and/or evening worship services. (The time demand to plan and prepare for worship will compete with time available to make new contacts. In addition, small numbers in worship may be more discouraging than encouraging to a new work and its visitors.).
15. Special care must be given to these things since we ought not to endanger the commitment, enthusiasm, prayer and financial support of the church.
16. Remember, if there is no failure, we may not have risked enough.
17. The importance of mentoring young pastors
18. A caution for men to not be isolated from help from Presbytery
19. Development of leadership (both lay leaders and ordained leaders) must be intentional
20. The need to draw members into the full life and convictions of the RPCNA
21. The church planter and core group needs to maintain their focus on the main location and its primary ministry until it is strong enough to support ministry in another location or in another vein.



22. Presbytery should shield the church planter and core group from the full weight of presbytery/synod committee work.
23. If the church planter resigns unexpectedly the Presbytery needs to step in immediately to shepherd the congregation.
24. Even if expected the transition from organising pastor and next pastor is a crucial time for a new/young congregation needing intentional Presbytery attention.