

# Mothering a Daughter Church Plant

## Guidelines and Checklists



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## Introduction

*Mother Church & Daughter Church? Where do these designations come from? The term Mother Church has numerous meanings in Christianity. Here is one definition from the Oxford Dictionary, "The Church...considered as a mother in its functions of nourishing and protecting the believers." Another definition goes like this, "A church...which has responsibility for or oversight of another." Still others are, "The original church of a particular Christian movement, serving as an organizational or spiritual center...The church...of which another church...is an offshoot...the oldest or original church from which all others have sprung."*

The Mother Church has an organic attachment to the Daughter Church and its church planter. Think of it as a baby being birthed from the belly of its mother.

The Daughter Church has the same organic bond and is the offspring of the Mother Church. The Daughter Church plant is nourished, protected and cared for in the Mother/Daughter Church relationship.

The imagery is stark: a mother caring for her child and making certain the child is given what it needs to grow and become independent at the proper time. The ultimate goal in mothering a Daughter Church is to commit to seeing the Daughter Church become *healthy, self-sufficient and reproducing*.

The Mother/Daughter Church planting relationship is more intimate and profitable than having a denominational department instigate and care for such a relationship. A denomination needs a church planting spearhead but particular churches need to give birth to their own church progenies. We will explore the reasons for Daughter Church planting as we move into the sections of this booklet.

Established churches may take on the role of a Mother Church in one of two ways. It may itself in a natural sense take on the role of being a Mother Church by establishing its own Daughter Church, or it might adopt a church plant during its development. In either case, the same mothering is needed, making certain the church plant is healthy, becoming self-sufficient and will be itself reproducing.

By the work of God, the Antiochan Church (Acts 13ff), in a real sense, became a Mothering Church to the churches the apostles planted in the first century. In almost all denominations, including the BFC, periods of growth took place when churches mothered new baby churches. God has His way of not only blessing the Daughter Church, but equally impressive is God blessing the Mother Church for her sacrifice and the birth pangs experienced through planting a new baby church.

Chip Stonehouse from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shares this wonderful account of the blessings of mothering a Daughter Church plant and celebrating it on Mother's Day.

*"One highlight of the month of May is a special day set aside to honor mothers. Telephone lines are jammed with calls from grown-up children to their mothers. Greeting cards are in great demand. Other festivities become a tradition for honoring the woman who has devoted herself to her children's welfare. Those with a Christian mother have special reasons to "arise and call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28).*

*...let us seize the occasion also to honor congregations that have produced daughter churches. To be successful, a mother church must have vision, courage, and a strong commitment to the Great Commission. Just as mothers need to conquer fears when they send their children away to college or into the workforce, so also do mother churches need to overcome fears. Will we be able to meet our budget? What will happen to the special loving relationship we enjoy when many of our children begin worshiping at another location?*

*We applaud those mother churches that have faced such concerns and yet have deliberately sent a number of their members away to form the nucleus of a new mission work. Starting daughter churches is perhaps the most effective way to establish a strong mission work which can reach out with the gospel in a new community.”* Chip Stonehouse, [www.opc.org](http://www.opc.org) Horizons

This excerpt brings out the main points in mothering a daughter church; it blesses the mother church and the daughter church and gives glory to God as the Kingdom is expanded for the Gospel's sake.

We hope that this booklet with its concise functions and checklists, along with Church Extension's *Regional or Particular Daughter Church Planting* manual at [www.churchplantingbfc.org](http://www.churchplantingbfc.org), will assist those churches that are presently daughtering a church or those churches or regions who are considering reproducing through either planting a daughter or adopting a current church plant.



*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.  
Matthew 16:18*

## Functions and Responsibilities

### Mother Church

- Determine the elders' agreement to plant a daughter church.
- Determine the congregation's agreement to support a daughter church plant.
- Determine the elders' agreement with the choice of the church planter and process for selection and calling.
- Determine the elders' agreement with the church planter's ministry plan and philosophy of ministry.
- Determine the elders' agreement with the target community for the plant.
- Develop a Mission Statement and Philosophy/Vision Statement for planting a daughter church.
- Determine where the daughter church fits into the strategic plan of the mother church or how it will be placed into the plan.
- Form a Church Planting Resource Team (CPRT) from the elders and congregation; define its role and duties.
- Share the core values of the mother church with the planter and the CPRT.
- Determine the leadership and authority structure of the plant, i.e. how are decisions made.
- Determine the accountability structure, i.e. who does the planter report to, what is expected in the reporting, how often should he report, how will finances be handled.
- Determine who will mentor and coach the planter. The senior pastor should take a lead role in mentoring. Consider any costs and who will pay them.
- Determine how the payroll will be handled, vacations, sick leave, etc. for the planter.

- Determine the Mother Church's resource commitment: financial, people, prayer teams launched in the church, senior pastor's time, etc.
- Determine what planting model the daughter church will follow: house church, small cell group, immediate public launch.
- What will the Mother Church want to see in order to release the Daughter Church for graduation into the BFC (Note: Church Extension has its criteria for graduation but the Mother Church may want to augment with its own criteria): number of people in attendance, what will offerings be like, how much money must be in reserve, and other conditions.
- Determine how to solicit other churches to participate with the daughter church planting initiative.
- Consider drafting a Mother/Daughter Church Planting agreement.
- Consider the Mother Church's budget: the level of indebtedness, any major capital campaigns, building plans, or projects being planned for the next 3-5 years, and any additional staffing needs being planned.
- Determine what the Daughter Church budget will be.
- Determine the goals for the Daughter Church in terms of the first 5 years.
- Determine what action will be taken in the event the church planter leaves before the daughter church graduates.

Note: Church Extension is available to assist with any aspect of your planning and/or facilitate any of the process for your Daughter Church planting enterprise.

## Checklist – Making Certain

This is a checklist that condenses the major points in the Functions and Responsibilities section.

- Is the leadership completely informed and on board with the vision and plan for starting a second site or daughter congregation?
- Is the congregation informed and supportive (usually takes a year to reach this point)?
- Do people understand how this initiative fits into the vision and purpose of the church?
- How will oversight be provided for this work?
- Will it be provided directly by Church Extension?
- Who will be a part of this second site or daughter church? Will everyone within the geographic target area be expected to attend?
- Will those interested in being a part of this work be interviewed and assessed as to their desire and right motives for being a part of this work? Will they be commissioned, along with the planter?
- What will be the criteria for those who will be a part of this work?
- Are we expecting any staff, elders or deacons to be a part of this work and, if so, how will that be determined and what will be the impact on the Mother Church?
- How much of the funding for the new work will come from the Mother Church?
- How will a church planter be recruited and by whom, and will he be responsible for raising any of the funds?
- Will we bring the planter on staff first before sending him out? If we bring him on staff, what will he do?

- Are we prepared to invest in him to give him the ministry experience and mentoring that he will need to be ready to plant?
- When do we anticipate the work to become independent of the mother church?
- Who will be primarily responsible for coaching the church planter?
- Has a CPRT been formed?
- Has a demographic profile been developed for the plant? (The Demographic Survey Taskbook is available on the CE website – [www.churchplantingbfc.org](http://www.churchplantingbfc.org))
- Has the plan for starting a daughter church been communicated to and endorsed by the Missions Committee?
- Is the Daughter Church plan complementary to the master plan for the Mother Church and the denomination?

## Resources

(\* = highly recommended)

- \*Church Extension - *Regional or Particular Daughter Church Planting Guidebook*; [www.churchplantingbfc.org](http://www.churchplantingbfc.org)
- \*[PDF]*The Mother Church and Church Planting* By JD Payne, Ph.D.; [www.northamericanmissions.org](http://www.northamericanmissions.org)
- Dynamic Church Planting International - Churches Planting Churches; [www.dcp.org](http://www.dcp.org)
- [PDF]*Planting Daughter or Second Site Churches*; [www.pcamna.org/documents/PlantingDaughterChurches.pdf](http://www.pcamna.org/documents/PlantingDaughterChurches.pdf)
- Planting Churches | Church Planting Models [www.plantingchurches.com/churchplantingmodels](http://www.plantingchurches.com/churchplantingmodels)
- \*Mother/Daughter Churches - Orthodox Presbyterian Church; [www.opc.org](http://www.opc.org) › New Horizons
- Church Planters Who Succeed - [www.churchleaders.com/.../138305-church-planters-who-succeed.html](http://www.churchleaders.com/.../138305-church-planters-who-succeed.html)
- \**The Dynamic Daughter Church Planting Handbook* Paperback – November 11, 2013 by Paul Becker (Author), Mark Williams (Author)
- [PDF]*Daughter Church Planting: The Multi-Site Approach - Center* [www.centerforusmissions.org/UserFiles/File/.../MM%20009-04-28.pdf](http://www.centerforusmissions.org/UserFiles/File/.../MM%20009-04-28.pdf)
- \**Planting Churches That Reproduce: Starting a Network of Simple Churches*; By Joel Thomas Comiskey
- \*Daughter Churches - Grace Baptist Church [www.truegraceofgod.org/plant/daughter-churches/](http://www.truegraceofgod.org/plant/daughter-churches/)
- \*Recent Reflections on Mother-Daughter Model of Church [www.questpastor.com/.../recent-reflections-on-mother-daughter-model-of-church](http://www.questpastor.com/.../recent-reflections-on-mother-daughter-model-of-church)
- *Church Planting Road Map* By James R. Nikkel

- [PDF]Online Church Planting Tutorial - New Churches  
www.newchurches.com/mediafiles/uploaded/t/0e150981  
7\_tutorial.pdf
- *\*The Y-B-H Handbook of Church Planting (Yes, But How?)*  
By Roger Mcnamara, Ken Davis
- *\*Winning the World for Christ: Untapped Potential of*  
*Daughter Church Planting* April 10, 2012 by Dr. Mark Allan  
Williams (Author), Ed Stetzer (Contributor)
- *\*Church Planting from the Ground Up*; edited by Tom  
Jones
- *\*The Mother Church - A Church Leaders Guide to Birthing*  
*and Nurturing Thriving New Congregations*; By John C.  
Bangs
- *Spin-off Churches: How One Church Successfully Plants*  
*Another*; By Rodney Harrison, Tom Cheyney, Don  
Overstreet
- *\*[PDF Innovate Church: Church Planting - DigitalCommons*  
www.digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?arti  
cle=1127...Its\_fac.
- *\*Big News... Grace Hills Is Pregnant! We're Expecting a*  
*Daughter Church*; Published by MinistryFeeds on August  
21, 2014 www.ministryfeeds.com/.../big-news-grace-hills-  
is-pregnant-were-expecting-a-...
- *\*[PDF]THE 12 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH PLANTING*  
www.ftkevangelism.com/dcpi.pdf
- *\*Launch: Starting a New Church from Scratch*; by Nelson  
Searcy
- *How to Plant a Cell Church*; by Joel Comiskey
- *Advanced Church Planting; (Pentecostal)* by Jack  
Cunningham