

CHURCH PLANTING, A TO Z

AFLC Home Missions

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.,
Plymouth, MN 55441

Steps for churches and planters getting started

A – **Arizona or bust:** the AFLC church planting conference is in Mesa, Jan. 25-28, 2021. For more information, click on <https://www.aflchomemissions.org/leadership-retreats/>.

B – **Bi-vocational leaders** are the norm for many new church planters today. Click [here](#) for the story of these two pastor-planters.

C – **Church Constitution:** Ready to make it official? Even the newest plants should start the process within the first weeks of meeting. Set up a team to write a constitution that fits your church. A carefully written constitution lays out your fee-church polity, makes you a legal entity, and sets you up to receive charitable contributions. Call Rev. Lyndon Korhonen (763-545-5631) for help. This [planning guide](#) will help.

D – **Designers and starters.** Are you one of the 15 percent of pastors who have the rare gift of planting? Planting teams need people with this [spiritual gift](#).

E – **EFCA's church planting assessment can help:** You can find EFCA Church Planting Skills assessment here: <https://www.efca.org/resources/document/church-planting-skills>.

F – **Financial Matching Grants:** AFLC plants can apply for sowers matching grants for \$12,000. How do we know if we qualify? <https://www.aflchomemissions.org/resources/#grants> (Add): (homemis@aflc.org).

G – **Global Church Planting**, a book by Craig Ott and Gene Wilson. A must-read.

H – **Home Missions Committee:** connect with us early at homemis@aflc.org.

I – **Identify your motives for planting.** Your leadership team should state your church's vision openly. Planning teams should be vulnerable and transparent as you communicate these motives. It helps you clarify your mission and opens you up to test if your motives align with God's will and His word.

J – **Jim Johnson**, AFLC church planting director, wants to be on your team: 805-807-8336

K – **Keller, Tim.** His book, **Center Church**, focuses on gospel renewal in city starts.

L – **Lifeway Research** is a practical resource for planting candidates and churches.

M – **Mentoring opportunities.** We have experienced pastors and partner churches who are eager to get on hour team. AFLC home missions can set you up with mentors who are eager to listen, encourage and help advise your leadership and launch teams.

N – **Nieuwhof, Carey** (Connexus Church, Toronto) writes a favorite blog for planters.

O – **Organize Launch Teams** to give legs to the planting process. What is a launch team and why are they important to the process? Click [here](#) to find out.

P – **Planting Assessments are vital.** Take a look. Two of the best assessing tools for your potential planters are available at Lifeway and at a like-minded group for AFLC churches, the Anglican “Always Forward” site. Find them at <http://churchplanter.lifeway.com/> and at <https://www.always-forward.com/assessment/>

Q – **Quads** for growing disciples will help make planters. See Greg Ogden’s, *Discipleship Essentials*. Gather into gender-specific groups of four and meet weekly. Click on <https://www.theglobaldiscipleshipinitiative.org/en-us/resources/books>.

R – **Rural Collective Acts 29** can help AFLC church plants doing county ministry. To reach the site, click on: <https://www.acts29.com/network/rural-collective/>.

S – **Stetzer, Ed.** His insights pave the way for plants: see Wheaton’s Billy Graham Center.

T – **Train pastors.** Send planter candidates to the Free Lutheran Seminary. The Summer Institute of Theology and the AFLC Church Planting Conferences are also significant to the training process. You can email our Seminary Dean James Molstre at james.molstre@flbc.org.

U – **Unreached people.** Church planters seek to introduce the lost to Jesus and gather them into healthy local congregations.

V – **Videos:** Free Lutheran Seminary’s planting course are worth checking out. The 2019 course features teachers Andy Coyle and Matthew Ballman (flbc.edu/resources-videos/).

W – **Walk through your proposed planting community** with prayer groups for an hour. See James 4:2-3.

X – **Exponential Church Planting Conferences** for launch teams are scheduled for Houston (Oct. 28-29, 2020), Chicago (Nov. 10-11, 2020) and Orlando (March 1-4, 2021).

Y – **Young planters** willing to embrace God’s call and step out in faith are the norm. It’s a significant that most effective planters are younger than 45, but he also uses older planters.

Z – **Zero.** The percentage of new churches started without a planter taking the risk.

Thank you for caring about lost souls and new church starts. Remember Romans 10:14.

You can contact AFLC Home Missions, or church planting director Jim Johnson, at AFLC Home Missions, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN, 55441. To reach director Jim Johnson, email is one easy way, at JamesLJohnson@AFLC.org or you Pastor Jim’s person cell at (805) 807-8336. To get in touch with home missions administrator Haley Thrasher, you can reach her at 763-545-5631, or reach her by email at homemis@aflc.org.

Press on,

James L. Johnson, Director

