

**Church Planting Team**  
Report to the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



Tom Ricks  
*Team Leader*

The 2018-2019 Church Planting Team (CPT) consists of TE Matt Brown, RE John Bueno, RE Jack Cathey, TE Bart Garrett, TE Jim Holland, and TE Rufus Smith, with TE Tom Ricks serving as the Team Leader. The CPT met August 8-10, 2018, and February 11-12, 2019, to plan and evaluate church planting ministry activities. While celebrating the fact that 7% of EPC churches were church plants, at its August 2018 meeting the CPT concluded that the EPC has hit a ceiling unless a different structure and more substantial staffing is funded. This was a key point of discussion when Ricks met with the National Leadership Team in January 2019. Tom also reported that many EPC churches are heavily invested in church planting outside of the EPC and outside the U.S. For example, Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, and Parker EPC in Parker, Colorado, invest heavily in church planting in India and Ethiopia, respectively. The following are key events and activities in the past year.

**Church Planter's Retreat**

This year's retreat was held October 25-27, 2018, at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Nearly 50 EPC church planters, their spouses, and members of the CPT joined presbytery leaders and others for three days of training and renewal that included peer networking, breakout and mentoring sessions, fellowship, and prayer. Church planting "nuts-and-bolts" training sessions focused on topics such as fundraising, worship, self-care, and preaching in a start-up situation. A CPT goal for this retreat is that every presbytery helps fund the participation of its church planters and send its Church Development Committee chairman to this event. Tom Werner (Moderator of the EPC's 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) and his wife, Susan, attended the 2018 retreat.

**Church Planter Cohorts**

It is a goal for every EPC church planter to participate in a cohort. This is a small, "virtual"



group of peers led by an experienced church planter. The initial cohort was launched in the last year, with four church planters meeting with Bart Garrett, Lead Pastor of Christ Church East Bay in Oakland, California. The cohort meets monthly via FaceTime and covers topics essential to the first two years of church planting, following a curriculum that Garrett has developed. These meetings also provide a place for cohort members to check in, as well as support and pray for each other. Another cohort is being prepared for launch, as six church planters have signed up for the next cohort.

### **Church Planting “Road Map”**

The CPT is very grateful for the work of Phil VanValkenburg, COO of the Office of the General Assembly. He produced a Church Planting “Road Map” that provides a checklist of important organizational, financial, and legal requirements a church plant needs to implement to ensure problems in these areas don’t emerge.

### **Other Work of the Team**

1. Leadership Diagnostic for church planters and potential launch teams
2. Encouraging the formation of and supporting existing EPC church planting networks, of which there are now seven: Resurrection Brooklyn (New York), Detroit, St. Louis, Memphis, Aspen Grove (Denver), Bay Area (California), and Presbytery of the Gulf South.

### **Roster of EPC Church Plants**

The current roster of EPC church plants is found in Addendum A. In addition, several church plants have departed from the list in the last year because they achieved local church status. Praise the Lord and congratulations!

1. Nación Santa (Holy Nation)—Haines City, Florida (Luis Quinones, Pastor), Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
2. SOMA— Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania (Marc de Jeu, Pastor), Presbytery of the Alleghenies
3. St. Patrick Presbyterian Church—Denver, Colorado (Shane Sunn, Pastor), Presbytery of the West
4. The Table—San Francisco, California (Troy Wilson, Pastor), Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
5. Church of the Redeemer—Knoxville, Tennessee (Dave Strunk, Pastor), Presbytery of the Southeast
6. The Antioch Movement—Ypsilanti, Michigan (Daniel Rose, Pastor), Presbytery of the Midwest



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**EPC Church Planting Team Members:**

TE Tom Ricks (Team Leader), Presbytery of Mid-America

TE Matt Brown, Presbytery of the East

RE John Bueno, Presbytery of the West

RE Jack Cathey, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

TE Bart Garrett, Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

TE Jim Holland, Presbytery of the Central South

TE Rufus Smith, Presbytery of the West

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Ricks  
Team Leader

June 2019

## ADDENDUM A - EPC Church Planting Activity – May 21, 2019

Church Plant	Location	Church Planter	Planter Email	Presbytery	Comments
1-Chelsea Presbyterian	Birmingham, AL	James Daniels	james@chelseapres.org	Central South	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
2-The Table	AR	Michael Gallup	mchlgallup@gmail.com	West	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
3-Christ Church	East Bay, CA	Jose Figueroa	Papi.figueroa@gmail.com	Pacific SW	Under-resourced area – 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
4-Mission Lakewood	Lakewood, CO	Darvin Wallis	darwinwallis@gmail.com	West	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
5-The Sacred Grace	Denver, CO	Nathan Hoag	nathan@thesacredgrace.com	West	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
6-New City	South Bend, IN	Luke Potter	Lpotter2@nd.edu	Midwest	
7-Church of the Resurrection	New Orleans, LA	Ben Cunningham	ben@resurrectionnola.com	Gulf South	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
8-Bridges Church	Rochester Hills, MI	Shakil Khondoker	Khondoker.shakil@gmail.com		Outreach to Muslims. Shakil is a WO global worker.
9-Crossway EPC	Mt. Clemens, MI	Jason Huff	pastorjason@crosswayepc.net	Midwest	4 <sup>th</sup> year
10-Central West End	St. Louis, MO	Eric Stiller	ericstiller@gmail.com	Mid-America	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
11-West County PC	St. Louis, MO	Jordan Dayub	Jormar6@gmail.com	Mid-America	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
12-River City Church	St. Louis, MO	Brian Roskin	roskinlegal@gmail.com	Mid-America	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
13-Ferguson Community	Ferguson, MO	Sean Boone	pastorseanboone@gmail.com	Mid-America	Under-resourced : pre-launch
14-Lake Forest Plant	Huntersville, NC	Aaron Gibson	agibson@lakeforest.org	Mid-Atlantic	Lake Forest plant 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
15-Lake Forest Hispanic Plant	Huntersville, NC	Victor Lael		Mid-Atlantic	Under-resourced, Lake Forest plant: 1 <sup>st</sup> year
16-Kirk of the Pines	Bahamas	Gabe Swing	gabeswing@gmail.com	Florida & the Caribbean	
17-Resurrection-Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn, NY	Brian Steadman	brian@resurrectionbrooklyn.org	East	4 <sup>th</sup> year

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18-Resurrection-Brooklyn Heights	Brooklyn, NY	Michael Subracko	michael@resurrectionbrooklyn.org	East	3rd year
19-Goodwill-New Paltz	New Paltz, NY	Joshua Stewart		East	Satellite plant of Goodwill-Montgomery, NY
20-Goodwill-Port Jervis	Port Jervis, NY	Jose Rodriguez		East	Satellite plant of Goodwill-Montgomery, NY
21-Goodwill-Beacon	Beacon, NY	Marcos Ortega		East	April 2019 satellite plant launch out of Goodwill-Montgomery, NY
22-Hope For Renewal	Youngstown, OH	Gary Koerth	tepcgary@sbcglobal.net	Alleghenies	
23-Resurrection-Chattanooga	Chattanooga, TN	Ryan Van Horn		Southeast	Almost in 3rd year
24-Hope City Church	Caldwell, TN	Colley Cooper	colley@hopechurchmemphis.com	West	Under-resourced – 3rd year
25-The Avenue	Memphis, TN	Tim Johnson	Tim@2pc.org	Central South	Multi-cultural & under-resourced – plant of Second-Memphis 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
26-All Souls	Nashville, TN	Kirk Atkisson	kirkatkisson@gmail.com	Central South	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
27-Restoration Community	Winston-Salem, NC	Gary McGhee	gmcghee@rccws.org	Mid-Atlantic	Plant out of River Oaks
28-Quest Church	New Braunfels, TX	Brett Becker	brettwbecker@gmail.com	Gulf South	3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> year
29-All Souls	Austin, TX	Christian Cryder		Gulf South	4th year
30-Hazen	Katy, TX	Nathan Cotton		Gulf South	Plant of Cornerstone-Katy
31-Faith Vietnamese	Houston, TX	Daniel Nguyen	Dannguyen04@sbcglobal.net	Gulf South	Under-resourced
32-Name TBD	Durango, CO	Matt Bong		West	Aspen Grove project
33-Name TBD	Clear Creek, CO	Bill Robertson		West	Aspen Grove project

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34-Name TBD	Winter Park, CO	Blair Killgallen		West	Aspen Grove project
35-Name TBD	Avery, NE	Abiud Lope		Great Plains	Presbytery plant-INPM pastor
36-Name TBD	Chicago, IL	Jeffrey Lancaster	Jeffreylancaster15@gmail.com	Rivers & Lakes	Scheduled to launch in 2019
37-Name TBD	Bend, OR	Dana Perrerrard		Pacific NW	Potential plant opportunity
38-Gateway – North Main	Findlay, OH	Ben Borsay		Midwest	Plant out of Gateway EPC
39-Hope Community	Waynesboro, VA	Glen Holman	drglenholman@gmail.com	Mid-Atlantic	
40-Fivepointseven	Detroit, MI	Brian Evans	Bwevans1@att.net	Midwest	Under-resourced
41-Iglesia Presbiteriana Esperanza	Memphis, TN	Manuel Jesus Glory Morales	pastor@esperanzamemphis.org	Central South	Hispanic & under-resourced – plant of Second-Memphis
42-Chapel Hill – Port Orchard	Port Orchard, WA	Megan Hackman	mhackman@chapelhillpc.org	Pacific Northwest	2019 launch out of Chapel Hill-Gig Harbor, WA

Total Church Plants - 42