

Partnering Church Guidelines

1. The request must be for a true “church plant.” A church plant is defined as an effort to establish a Southern Baptist congregation in a specific location and among specific people who has not previously been a congregation. This church plant will be established to become a self-supporting, self-leading and self-reproducing congregation.

2. The Partnering church must make a formal commitment to provide proper financial support for the church plant pastor. The following is strongly recommended:
 - a. Salary support that will allow for the church planter to adequately provide for family and housing needs. If the church planter is a full time church planter, then the Partnering church should consider at least \$800.00 to \$1000.00 a month for 1 to 2 years (this amount can be from a single sponsor or from several sponsors). If the church planter is bi-vocational, then the sponsor should consider at least \$300.00 to \$500.00 a month for 1 to 2 years.

 - b. The Partnering church should see that the church planter participates in some type of health insurance program and retirement program.

3. The primary Partnering church or churches must be an active, participating and contributing church within the Nashville Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

4. It is required that the partnering church or churches participate in a partnering churches church planting workshop sponsored by the associational Church Planting Team.

5. The Partnering church and the church planter will establish a covenant agreement that will describe their relationship and should clarify in writing the expectations and responsibilities of both churches (and more if multiple partnerships are employed). It should be signed and dated by all parties.