

Church Establishment Committee (CEC) Framework To Bolster Small Church Congregations

Through studying the scriptures and recent history of the start of our small churches, four key attributes are needed for congregations to thrive -- 1) critical mass of believers 2) local ministry / leadership 3) common purpose or Vision and 4) a deep and abiding love for God and each other. Often within our small churches, these attributes have not materialized completely, which has inhibited their establishment. This framework has been created to assist with further development.

- A special sub-Committee called the Church Assistance Committee (CAC) will be formed to focus and oversee the efforts in each of the congregations that will be bolstered. This Committee consists of an elder, local ministry brother, 1-2 brothers from larger churches and 1-3 brothers from the CEC.
- The Committee will assess the needs of the local church including membership, ministry, spiritual gifts and current strengths/weaknesses related to the 4 Pillar Mission.
- A church vision may be developed to provide local direction, purpose and plan for growth/outreach.
- When specific needs are identified in the small churches (ex. song leaders, Sunday School teachers), the CAC will work with HarvestCall to communicate them to the Apostolic Christian national brotherhood.
- If there is relocation involved, the Committee will help prepare, send and integrate any new brothers and sisters into the local body.
- Once the local church is self-sustaining, the CAC will transition out.

Notes -- Since each of the churches will be at varying stages in their development and needs, timelines will be developed accordingly. Ultimately, God's timing and blessing will determine progress in each of the churches. The intent of the current pilots is to learn from the experiences and then assist our other small churches accordingly.

We pray that this framework and the work by the CAC brothers and everyone who will answer God's call will be a blessing to the churches in Austin and St. Louis and in time, all of our small churches in need of bolstering.