

# **Our Vision For the Movement**



## **North Georgia Network**

**Do not pray only for your own spiritual renewal. Pray for a springtime of the Spirit which will enrich the church and the world, an awakening for which all earlier renewal movements have been only rehearsals.**

**Richard Lovelace**

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# *The North Georgia New Church Network*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. New Church Network (NCN) Meeting Schedule**

6:30 AM	Coaches Meeting
7:00 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM	Consults & Community
8:30 AM	Break
8:45 AM	Vision & Praying Kingdom Prayers
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Learning: NCN Training Curriculum
12:00 Noon	Break

### **B. New Church Network (NCN) Meeting Goals**

1. Renewing Our Vision (Church Planting Movement in North Georgia)
2. Praying Kingdom Prayers (The Lord's Pattern Prayer)
3. Learning Together: 20 Training Modules (2-Year Training Cycles)
4. Supporting Each Other (Coaching & Church Planter Consults)
5. Sharing Our Lives (Breaking Bread Together)

### **C. New Church Network (NCN) Meeting Dynamics**

1. Coaching
2. Community
3. Training
4. Spiritual Formation

## OUR VISION FOR THE MOVEMENT

The North Georgia New Church Network (NCN) is comprised of interested churches and church plants from Metro Atlanta Presbytery, Georgia Foothills Presbytery and Northwest Georgia Presbytery.

### I. Our Mission: Why Does the North Georgia Network Exist?

Our mission is to start and strengthen healthy, Reformed, reproducing churches in greater North Georgia that are advancing God's Kingdom through the power of the Gospel. We exist to serve:

- Church planters in the field in North Georgia
- Emerging church planters for North Georgia
- Presbytery churches in North Georgia
- Emerging core groups in North Georgia
- Other PCA presbyteries (Georgia & North America)
- Other denominations & agencies (at home & abroad)

### II. Our Vision: What do we envision in the future by God's grace?

As a people of God's grace, called to promote His Glory, our vision is to make visible by Word and deed, the invisible Kingdom of God, in such a way as to transform North Georgia and through us, the nations, by the power of the Gospel. In dependence upon God's grace, our vision for North Georgia includes:

- Establishing indigenous, healthy, growing churches that are making a significant gospel impact within our cities and towns and among all of our culturally diverse people groups
- Developing kingdom-minded churches throughout our region with a strong focus on transforming our cities and towns through deeds of mercy and justice as well as words of truth
- Growing our churches primarily through relentless, effective evangelism and gospel-centered discipleship that results in the regular conversion and transformation of individuals and families
- Developing a cooperative church planting network that is recruiting, training, and coaching emerging church planters to multiply churches among our region's diverse groups of people
- Establishing a missional church planting movement that is working in strategic partnerships with other ministries to facilitate more and better church planting movements at home and abroad.
- Our vision is not merely to reach North Georgia with the Gospel but for North Georgia to become a "Sending Region" to all nations by creating a church planting partnership with the International Presbyterian Church, UK.

### III. Our Values: What are the Core Convictions that Motivate Us?

- **Kingdom-Minded**  
We understand that as a means to glorifying God in North Georgia, we must see His Kingdom cross ethnic, cultural, socio-economic and generational lines. So we will work toward loving unity, while celebrating our diversity in styles and emphases. And since God's Kingdom is bigger than any one church or group of churches, we will collaborate with other Kingdom-minded churches in our region.
- **Gospel-Centered**  
Our primary motive and means for planting churches in North Georgia is rooted in the Good News that our God now reigns over all things through the person and work of Jesus Christ. In this Good News everyone who believes can find deliverance from both the penalty and the power of sin.
- **Leader-Focused**  
The church planter and family is job one. We are committed to individual coaching for each planter, continued training and assistance. Our Network is also committed to the training up of new leaders in our churches.
- **Culturally-Engaged**  
We are certain that the Kingdom of God is able to transform the moral, social, educational and political structures to reflect Kingdom values. So we will practice incarnational ministry, involving mercy and justice.
- **Prayerfully-Confident**  
We practice dependent prayer with bold faith, realizing that our Father has invited us to 'ask the Lord of the harvest' that His Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Theologically-Grounded**  
Theology is application. We share a winsomely Reformed worldview. Because our theology is integrated to all spheres of life, it drives our missional focus; we can collaborate with others in ministry. We have no need to fear culture, nor embrace it, but to engage it with the Gospel.
- **Contextually-Adaptable**  
We are intentional, bold, compassionate and thoughtful in our approach to sharing the message of the Gospel in each context; whether that is an individual or a culture.

## IV. Our Strategy: What is our Strategic Plan?

Our strategy is to equip leaders to develop a healthy, growing Church Planting Network that results in Church Planting Alliances that birth Church Planting Movements.

### 1. Developing Church Planting Networks

Our strategy is not merely to train and coach individual church planters but also to develop a healthy, growing, regional *Church Planting Network* in our area.

**A Church Planting Network** is an intentional *Kingdom Partnership* between 3 or more church planters and leaders (normally from the same denomination, agency, etc.) to share a common vision for advancing God's Kingdom in their city and/or region through starting, growing and multiplying churches and to resource one another to help fulfill that vision.

A healthy, growing, reproducing *Church Planting Network* is not only the best way to advance God's Kingdom in a region but also the best way for church planters to be trained and supported.

### 2. Building Church Planting Alliances

Since no one single *Church Planting Network* normally has the ability to do Gospel ministry effectively to all the diverse people groups in one region, our kingdom strategy is also to develop kingdom partnerships with other Church Planting Networks and like-minded ministries that share our beliefs and values in our region—thus forming *Church Planting Alliances*

**A Church Planting Alliance** is a *Kingdom Partnership* between *Church Planting Networks and ministries* to pursue a common vision for the spiritual, social and cultural transformation of their city and/or region and to collaborate with each other to help fulfill that vision.

When *Church Planting Networks and Alliances* begin to pray fervently (i.e. *Concerts of Prayer*) for their region and serve their region wholeheartedly through gospel ministries of word and deed, this is normally the means God uses to create a widespread spiritual awakening we call a *Church Planting Movement*.

### 3. Birthing Church Planting Movements

**A Church Planting Movement** is a work of God's Spirit that produces indigenous, healthy, growing, reproducing churches that result in the spiritual, social and cultural transformation of a city and/or region.

A *Church Planting Movement* is more than merely evangelism and discipleship that results in new churches, networks and alliances. And it's more than a renewal of pre-existing churches.

*Church Planting Movements* are spiritual awakenings that establish, strengthen and advance the body of Christ in a region through the transforming power of the gospel in word and deed. The end goal is not merely renewed individuals and churches but the renewal of cities and regions under the Lordship of Christ.

## V. Our Plan: What is our Tactical Plan?

In successful military campaigns there must always be both: 1) a big-picture strategic plan and 2) a more detailed tactical plan for carrying out that strategic plan on the field in battle. From a biblical perspective, we are not living in a time of peace but a time of intense war. Therefore it is vitally important for the church to have a clearly defined battle plan. As stated above, our big-picture **strategic plan** is to equip leaders to develop a healthy, growing...

- Church Planting Network that results in...
- Church Planting Alliances that birth...
- Church Planting Movements.

### ***Equipping Leaders to Establish Network Components***

Developing a regional church planting movement normally requires an intentional, multi-year process that equips leaders to establish *Network Components* (leadership development systems) that result in healthy, growing, reproducing churches, networks, alliances and movements. So our **tactical plan** for carrying out this big-picture strategic plan above is:

- To equip leaders, through an intentional, multi-year process, ...
- To establish the essential network components that result in...
- Healthy, growing, reproducing churches, networks, alliances and movements.

### ***What are Network Components?***

Just as a church must have all the essential church components (prayer, worship, learning, fellowship, evangelism and mercy—i.e. vital signs of a healthy church) in order to be healthy and accomplish its purposes, so must a church network have all the essential network components to be healthy and accomplish its purposes. Below is a list of the essential network components (vital signs of a healthy network):

- **Vision:** Developing a unified regional Kingdom vision & strategy
- **Renewal:** Implementing gospel renewal dynamics & kingdom prayer
- **Coaching:** Equipping leaders for coaching ministry
- **Training:** Training church planters & coaches
- **Resourcing:** Mobilizing the laity for kingdom mission
- **Recruiting:** Recruiting church planters and leaders
- **Assessing:** Assessing church planters and leaders
- **Farming:** Raising up planters from the harvest for the harvest (apprenticeships)
- **Parenting:** Equipping churches to plant churches

Reference: Adapted from Robert E. Logan, Church Multiplication, Coachnet

## VI. Our Leaders: Who are the Network Leaders?

### A Multi-Year Process

Planting a new church network is very much like planting a new church. Just as it normally takes years to establish all the essential church components (prayer, worship, learning, etc.) necessary for a healthy, growing, reproducing church, so it normally takes years to establish all the essential network components (vision, renewal, coaching, etc.) necessary for a healthy, growing, reproducing network.

In order to establish a new church there must be a group of church leaders (leadership team) willing to assume responsibility for helping to establish and strengthen the essential church components. In a similar way, in order to establish a new church network there must also be a group of church leaders (leadership team) willing to assume responsibility for helping to establish and strengthen essential new church network components.

Just as some leaders must assume responsibility for the development of more than one church component in the early stages of establishing a new church, so some leaders must assume responsibility for the development of more than one church network component in the early stages of establishing a New Church Network. Also, some components are normally much stronger than others—especially early on.

### Network Leaders

There are three kinds of leaders in a New Church Network: 1) Church Planters, 2) Coaches, and 3) Leadership Team Members. A **Leadership Team Member** is a church leader (laity or clergy) who has assumed responsibility to help establish and strengthen a specific New Church Network component for one year (via a yearly *Network Covenant*). Below is the current status of our NCN Leadership Team:

**1. Church Planters:** Walter Henegar, Ralph Johnston, Jose Mateo, Hernando Saenz, Bryan Pierce, Scott Armstrong, Jim Misner, John Hardie, Alex Villasana, Paul Reynolds (Me & My House Ministries), Stephane Cobbert (ARP), Rob McQueary (EFC), Scott Seeke, (ELCA)

**Church Planter Residence/Apprentices:** Matt Armstrong, Jon Storck, McKay Caston, Bryan White.

**2. Coaches:** Rod Entrekin, Wes Horne, Jim Moon, Tim McKeown, Jon Adams, Bob Orner, Alan Foster, Jim Whittle, Mike Glass, Al LaCour, Bob Cargo, Alan Foster, Tom Wood

**3. Leadership Team Members:**

- **Vision Leaders:** Jim Whittle, Mike Glass, Rod Entrekin, Bob Cargo, Jim Wert, Lee Lovett, Alan Foster, Gordon Wells, Tom Wood.  
(Note: 3 members from 3 MNA Presbytery Committees & the NCN Director)
- **Renewal Leaders:** Rick Holmes\*, Jon Adams, Al LaCour
- **Coaching & Training Leaders:** Rod Entrekin\*, Tom Wood

- **Resource Leaders:** Tom Wood
- **Recruiting & Assessing Leaders:** Bob Cargo\*, Dan Adamson, Phil Drake, Alan Foster
- **Farming & Parenting Leaders:** Vacant

\* Component Leader

## **VII. Our Training: What is Our Training Curriculum? (2-Year Cycles)**

You cannot truly train a church planter at a conference, workshop or seminar any more than you can train a pilot to fly by taking instruction in flight theory (without flying a plane), or train a surgeon by mastering the theory of surgery (but never operating). Instead the best way (the only true way) to learn how to plant a church is:

1. by planting a church
2. under the oversight of a well-trained coach that is
3. guiding you through an intentional, holistic church planter training curriculum on the field—as a way of life.

With that training paradigm in mind, Global Church Advancement (GCA) has designed and proven a fully-integrated church planting training curriculum that includes the essential components necessary for equipping leaders to start, grow and multiply gospel-centered churches and networks in their cities and regions.

This training captures the best elements of an ecumenical spirit, stimulating intentional collaboration between denominations and mission agencies in both mono and cross-cultural contexts. Church planters representing more than 30 countries and one hundred denominations and mission agencies have received this training. It is now available in English, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin and French.

### **GCA Foundations for Church Planting (2008-2009)**

- Focus (August 2008)
- Stewardship (September 2008) Evening Event
- Prayer 1 (October 2008)
- Philosophy (November 2008)
- Purpose (January 2009)
- Values (February 2009)
- Styles (March 2009)
- Models (April 2009)
- Finances (May 2009)
- Planning (June 2009)

### **GCA Essentials for Church Planting (2009-2010)**

- Vision (August 2009)
- Prayer 2 (September 2009)
- Worship (October 2009)
- Preaching (November 2009)
- Discipleship (January 2010)
- Groups (February 2010)
- Evangelism (March 2010)
- Mercy/Justice (April 2010)
- Leadership (May 2010)
- Planning (June 2010)

## **VIII. Our Priorities: Where & When are We Planning to Plant Churches?**

Recruiting, assessing and placing qualified church planters in ministry fields which match: 1) their calling, gifts, life season, etc. with 2) the needs of a particular ministry focus group and area, is more an art than a science. In order to help us in this process, we have identified the following potential ministry focus areas and groups in our region in need of new churches.

We envision during the next 5 years (2007-2012) we will start 25 new churches in our region, of anglo and various multi-ethnicities and 5 church planting partnerships with the IPC.

### **Our A-LIST (within the next 1-2 years)**

We will pray and work to start 5 new churches in these areas in 2008-2010:

- Grayson
- Norcross – Alex Villasana '08
- Suwanee
- Jasper- Jim Misner now there
- Cartersville
- Braselton/
- Grant Park- Jon Storck
- Marietta
- Woodstock
- Dahlonega- McKay Caston
- Asian
- African American
- LaGrange

### **Our B-LIST (within the next 3-5 years)**

We will pray and work to start 10 new churches in these areas by 2009-2011:

- Hispanic
- African American
- Tyrone
- Henry County
- Dacula
- North Forsyth County
- East Atlanta
- Gainesville
- Toccoa

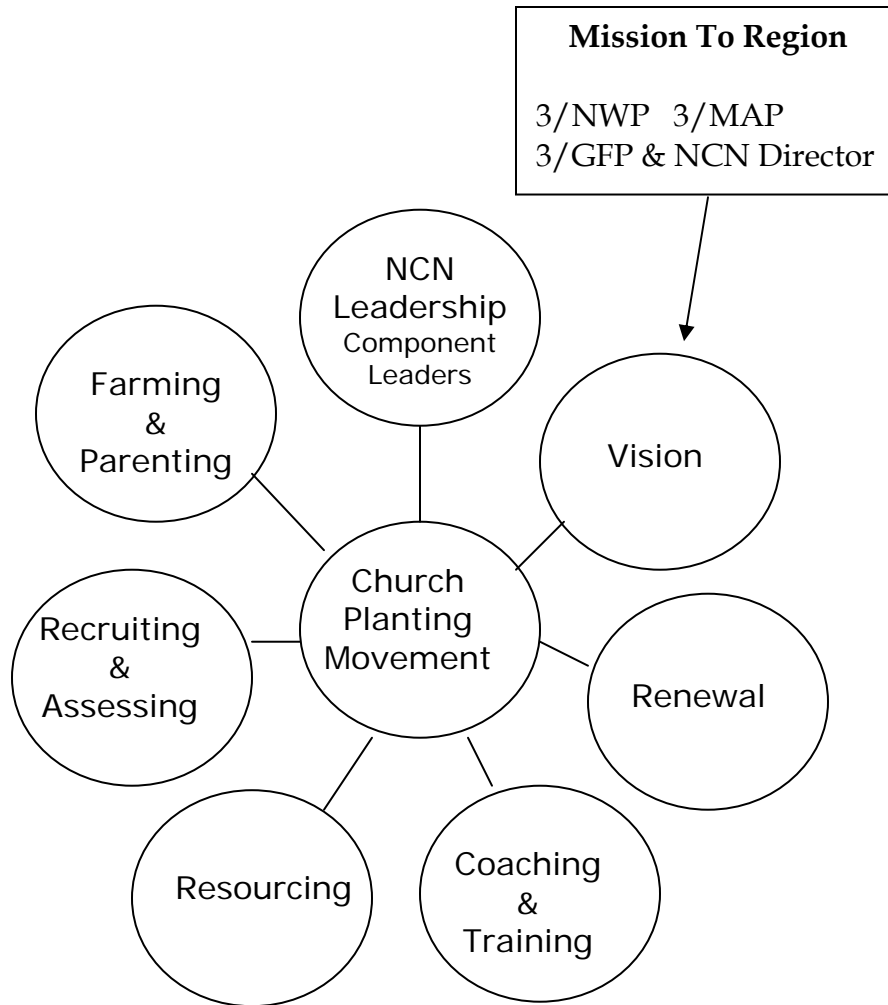
### **Our C-LIST (within the next 5-10 years)**

- City Center
- North Buckhead
- East Point
- Hispanic
- Auburn
- Canton
- Asian,
- Lithia Springs
- Others:



# APPENDIX

The Relationship Between MNA Committees and NCN



1. NCN provides coordination of all church planting ministries under the leadership of the Vision Team as the servant to each presbytery's MNA Committee
2. Each MNA Committee approves their Church Planter candidates, funding allocations and strategies for each church plant and brings those recommendations to the presbytery for final approval.
3. Each MNA Committee approves their 3 members of NCN Regional Vision team.
4. Funds budgeted by the presbytery for church planting or given directly to the NCN are administered by the NCN under the oversight of the Regional Vision Team (Regional Leaders)
5. Presbytery agrees to honor designated gifts to church planting by forwarding 100% of those funds to NCN.
6. Receipts and expenditures of the NCN are reported regularly to each presbytery through the MNA Committee.
7. NCN may co-opt members from the presbytery to participate in the network and assign those members to carry out the various ministries of the network.
  - a. Leadership: Unifying leaders around a master plan
  - b. Vision: Developing a regional vision and comprehensive strategy
  - c. Renewal: Prayer and personal spiritual growth
  - d. Coaching: Coaching church planters
  - e. Training: Training church planters and coaches
  - f. Resourcing: Mobilizing the laity for kingdom mission
  - g. Recruiting: Recruiting church planters

## Our New Church Location Criteria

### 1. Alignment with Network Vision and Values

The church plant location must be in alignment with the vision and values (i.e. we must see His Kingdom cross ethnic, culture, socio-economic and generational lines)

### 2. Targeted Community Service.

We must consider churches that are bridging directly to community needs and serving that community, rather than accepting that 'people come from that area to our church'

### 3. Ministry Style

In areas where only a traditional or liturgical style of ministry/worship/preaching etc is available, a church plant with a more contemporary ministry style could fit in the target area alongside the traditional and vice versa. This would also include 'niche' type churches

### 4. Ethnicity.

We are dealing now in Atlanta with huge changes in demographics of ethnicity. We cannot assume that different ethnic groups will attend Anglo dominated churches. Therefore we must be planting ethnic based churches and multi-ethnic churches.

### 5. Percent of Unchurched in target area.

In some areas, the percent of unchurched is higher than the national average and more than one ministry can fit in that area.

### 6. Distance to member Churches and sister PCA churches

Linear miles are important factors to consider. However they are not to be considered alone. E.g. natural or man-made barriers such as lakes, rivers, or major highways and interstates are barriers to church impact and growth. Difficult traffic flow patterns make it more difficult for the "non-regional" based church to overcome.

### 7. Partnerships with parenting churches.

We will work with churches, which desire to daughter congregations, seeing their desire as "our plans"

### 8. Projected Growth in area.

We pay attention to high growth communities because new communities are more open to attending new churches than more established communities.

### 9. Strategic "centers of influence"

City Centers around Atlanta, colleges and universities, college towns, as well as major 'hubs' for new communities

### 10. Population Density.

We work from a general ratio of 1 PCA congregation per 50-60,000 people

### 11. Leading and direction of the Holy Spirit

This is the most significant of the selection process. We will pray, listen and have the Spirit give us His leading—i.e. "it seemed right" and was later confirmed by our church body.