



Cell-Based Church

Planting Tools

A special supplement
for church planters



Developing a Vision Statement

Vision

What kind of church do you want to plant? Why would someone be interested in coming to this church? What are the things you value? What is the purpose of this church? What is the mission of this church? To answer the above questions, it is sometimes helpful to start from the desired end product and work backwards (Isaiah 46:10). Picture what the church will look like in five years. Make a list of 30 reasons why someone would want to be involved in this church. Keep trying until you can list 30. Use the “Vision Statement” on the next page.

Note: You should complete your demographic research before you develop your vision statement.

Values

Review the Twelve Scriptural Values for the Cell Group Church (Module I:A). Are these your values for the church? If so, write them out in complete sentences using your own words. Use the “Values Statement” to list fifteen scriptural values for the church plant.

Mission statement

What is the divine purpose of this church? Who is it going to reach? What is going to be done to reach them? How is it going to be done? The mission statement answers all of the previous questions. Go ahead and write a first draft of your mission statement. Remember it must answer the three questions...who? what? how? Now, have a few peers read it and give their input.

Compare it with other mission statements. Read the DOVE mission statement. Review the 30 reasons why someone would want to be involved in this church. Is your mission statement in line with the 30 reasons you gave for someone being involved as you were picturing the church in five years?

Modify your mission statement to fit in one paragraph. Be sure this mission statement is what is on your heart. It will be challenged. People may question it. The enemy will oppose it. You have to be committed to it.

Vision statement

Now you want to boil that mission statement down to just one sentence that is concise, easy to say and motivational. Your vision statement should be able to fit on a banner but yet make sense on a bulletin cover. This is the toughest step of the process and may take the longest time to complete.

Pray, pray, and fast and pray...this is very important. Complete the vision statement, get some input from peers or team members, and revise if needed. Be sure this statement communicates what is in your heart.

Vision Statement

Why would someone want to be involved in this church?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____





Values Statement

List 15 scriptural values for the church plant.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Demographics

A Webster's dictionary definition of demographics is *the statistical characteristics of human populations (as age and income) used especially to identify markets*. Who are they? How do they live? What is the community like? Demographics is very similar to what Moses sent the spies into the promised land to do (Numbers 13:1,17).

There are two approaches you can take to demographics. One is to do your own research. The other option is to purchase information gathered by professionals.

To do your own research is beneficial because it helps you to get to know the community where you are going to be planting the church. There are a number of options to consider. Prayer walks and drives are a great way to find out who lives where and how people spend their time. Check out parks, malls and public places where people congregate to do your research. What kind of cars are people driving? Sit outside the local high school and observe the youth of the community. It can also be very helpful to put together a questionnaire. Your team can take it into your targeted areas to meet people and find out what they feel the needs of the community are. This is a great way to meet people and let them know there is a new church starting in their community. Use the Demographic Research Worksheets as a guide.

Information gathered by professionals can be obtained from U.S. Census data—found at the local library (check out the town history while you are there), city or county planning commissions, school administration offices, university libraries (ask for help), public utilities, real estate firms, banks, Chamber of Commerce, radio stations, newspapers and the internet.

To purchase information compiled by professionals is very convenient. You can get every imaginable population cross section. Information is available in 1, 5, or 10 mile detailed population reports from the intersection of any streets. Surf the internet for information! The following is one option:

Marketing Mapping Software on the internet:
www.scanus.com





Demographic Research

Worksheet A

Selected community/geographic area _____

Median household income _____

Common occupations

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Common hobbies/Leisure activities

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Age distribution

- _____ % 0-10
- _____ % 11-20
- _____ % 21-30
- _____ % 31-40
- _____ % 41-50
- _____ % 51-60
- _____ % 60

Marital status

- _____ % Married
- _____ % Single
- _____ % Divorced/separated

Ethnic groups

- _____ %
- _____ %
- _____ %
- _____ %

Housing

- _____ % Own
- _____ % Rent

Median number of children _____

Percent of spouses who work _____

Population patterns

10 years ago _____

Today _____

10 years projected _____

Demographic Research

Worksheet B

Description of community _____

Number and type of churches _____

Obvious community challenges _____

Insights from prayer walking/driving through the selected area _____

Insights from conversations with people in the community _____

Concerns of community members _____





General Information

Incorporation/Association

Incorporation laws vary in different states, provinces and nations. Our recommendation is to hire a lawyer to file the incorporation papers. You only need the name of your corporation (church), an initial business address (which can be your home), a statement of purpose, and the initial officers.

Music Rights

For a few dollars a year, you can keep a good conscience with all the overheads and music you use. There is an annual fee that depends on the size of the church. Call CCLI at 800.234.2446 for an application. Their address is:

CCLI

17201 NE Sacramento St.

Portland, OR 97230-5941

General Administration

Check the internet for Church Administration “how to” manuals or books to answer all your general administrative questions.

Cell-Based Church Bylaws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be _____ (herein after spoken of as the church) a partner church of DOVE Christian Fellowship, International. Its duration is to be perpetual.

ARTICLE II : PURPOSE

The purpose of the church shall be to provide spiritual oversight for the membership and to meet spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people through faith in Jesus Christ and by resourcing and networking with the Body of Christ in fulfilling the Great Commission.

ARTICLE III : OFFICES

The business office of the church shall be located at _____

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT PRIVILEGES

The church shall have self-governing privileges in harmony with the authority and vision of the Apostolic Council of DOVE International (DOVE). Local authority in vision, direction and doctrine shall be vested in the Eldership Team. The Eldership Team may appoint others under them as required to assist in spiritual oversight of geographic areas or ministries. This church is a Partner Church with DOVE as evidenced by a Partnership Agreement entered into between the church and DOVE. Within the Partnership Agreement, the Eldership Team members acknowledge that they have read DOVE's Constitution, Bylaws and Handbook and that they are in agreement with the statements therein and agreed to be bound by the statements contained in these documents.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- 4-2A. The governing documents of (the church) are the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Articles of Incorporation take precedence over the Bylaws.
- 4-2B. No amendments or repeal shall be made to the Articles of Incorporation as adopted except by a 2/3 majority vote of the Eldership Team and affirmation by the Senior Elder. Amendments shall be within the guiding principles set forth in the DOVE handbook, Constitution and Bylaws.
- 4-2C. The Bylaws of (the church) or any portions thereof, may be amended or repealed by a 2/3 majority of the Eldership Team and affirmation by the Senior Elder. Amendments shall be within the guiding principles set forth in the DOVE handbook, Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE V: DOCTRINE STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. The Holy Spirit moved upon the writers of the Old and New Testament and inspired them as they wrote the Words of God. God's revelation in Christ and in scripture is unchangeable. Through it the Holy Spirit still speaks today. (II Tim. 3:13-17; Heb. 4:12; Psalm 119:89, 105; I Pet. 1:23-25; Gal. 1:8, 9; Matt. 5:18; Isa. 40:8)

WE BELIEVE that there is One God, eternally existent in three personalities: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God the Father—Creator of all things. By His Word all things were created and through the power of His Word all things are held together. He sent His Son Jesus to redeem mankind unto Himself. A relationship with God only comes through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ—is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of a virgin. He lived a sin-less life, and performed many miracles. He redeemed us by His atoning death through His shed blood, He ascended to the right hand of the Father, and He will personally return in power and glory. There is no other name given under heaven by which man must be saved. Holy Spirit—inspired the writers of the Bible, convicts the world of sin, teaches us all things, and brings to our remembrance the Word of God. (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6-8; Isa. 43:10; Matt. 3:16, 17; Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 12:4-6; John 14:23, 25; I Tim. 6:15, 16; I John 5:7)

WE BELIEVE that mankind is perishing because of sin, which separates him from God. But God loves all mankind, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should repent. Mankind can only be saved through a complete commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, being regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:26, 31; Psalm 8:4-8; Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 5:1, 12-21; Eph. 2:8, 9; Acts 3:19-21; I Cor. 15:21, 22; Gal. 6:14, 15; II Cor. 5:17)

WE BELIEVE in the present infilling of the Holy Spirit to all believers who desire it. The Holy Spirit's ministry to the body of Jesus Christ gives power to live, witness, proclaim the gospel and



to make disciples. The Holy Spirit gives us power to cultivate a Christ-like character through the Fruit of the Spirit and to build up and mature the church through the miraculous gifts and ministries in this present day. (John 15:8-10; I Cor. 12:13; John 3:5, 6; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:38, 39; Luke 11:9-13; Joel 2:28, 29; I Cor. 12-14; Heb. 2:4)

WE BELIEVE that the local church is a body of believers brought together by the Holy Spirit as a visible part of the body of Christ and His church universal. The church is responsible to faithfully proclaim the whole Word of God in fulfilling the Great Commission, properly administer the elements, and humbly submit themselves to discipline, all for the glory of God. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Rom. 12:4, 5; I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 2:22; I Pet. 2:5, 9, 10; Titus 2:14)

WE BELIEVE that all mankind shall give an account of their deeds in this earthly life before the judgment seat of Christ. Those with their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be eternally with God in His glory, those without their names written will be eternally separated from God and tormented. (I Thess. 5:13-17; Rev. 1:7; Acts 1:11; Rev. 20:10-15; II Cor. 5:10; II Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 21:1-4)

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS FUNCTIONS AND MEETINGS

- 6-1A. The Eldership Team shall serve as the board of directors. They shall be responsible for the overall vision, direction, focus and shall fully control, govern and operate the business affairs of the church. As a Partner Church of DOVE, we submit to the vision, mission, basic values, and guiding principles of DOVE's Apostolic Council.
- 6-1B. The Eldership Team shall be given leadership to by the Senior Elder. The Senior Elder shall be the president of the board of directors
- 6-1C. The Eldership Team shall meet annually for an official meeting in the month of January. The Eldership Team shall record the minutes of the annual meeting including the election of officers; vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer. The Eldership Team will meet regularly as determined by the Senior Elder.

APPOINTMENT

- 6-2A. The Senior Elder shall be called by God, qualified (I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9) and willing to fulfill this leadership responsibility. The Senior Elder shall be recognized and recommended by both the Eldership Team and DOVE's Apostolic Council. The Senior Elder shall be appointed by a member of the Apostolic Council or an appointed designate. The Senior Elder shall not be appointed unless there is unanimous agreement with the Eldership Team, recommendation by DOVE's Apostolic Council and general affirmation of the Partner Church's cell group leaders.
- 6-2B. The Eldership Team members shall be called by God, qualified by scripture (I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9) and willing to fulfill this leadership responsibility.
- 6-2C. The Eldership Team members are discerned through fasting and prayer, then nominated by the Senior Elder and the existing Eldership Team. General affirmation of the cell group leaders of the Church and the recommendation of DOVE's Apostolic Council is required for an individual to serve on the Eldership Team.
- 6-2D. An Apostolic Council member (or an appointed designate)

and the Senior Elder shall install new members as set forth in 6-2B and 6-2C at the annual meeting or as deemed necessary by the Eldership Team.

- 6-2E. The Eldership Team shall consist of at least two members which includes the Senior Elder.
- 6-2F. The Senior Elder and each member of the Eldership Team shall be active members of a cell group and involved in the life of the church.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

- 6-3A. Appoint and commission Deacons and cell leaders.
- 6-3B. Appoint persons to serve on an Administrative Committee if the Eldership deems an Administrative Committee is needed.
- 6-3C. Appoint and oversee specific committees or directors, e.g. Missions Council Representative, Worship, Children, Youth, Singles, as required to resource the spiritual needs of the Partner Church.
- 6-3D. Recognize, appoint, oversee, protect spiritually and provide accountability to the Fivefold Ministers who serve within the local Partner Church.
- 6-3E. Train and nurture leaders.
- 6-3F. Provide oversight and spiritual protection to members.
- 6-3G. Provide assistance during times of crisis for members in cell group or committees.
- 6-3H. Approve annual and all modified Partner Church Budgets.
- 6-3I. Recommend a representative to serve on the DOVE Stewardship Group to be appointed by the DOVE Apostolic Council.

TERMS - VACANCIES

- 6-4A. Eldership Team members, including the Senior Elder, shall be willing to serve long term with an annual evaluation.
- 6-4B. This annual evaluation will first have the Senior Elder and each Eldership Team member mutually discern the call of God on their own life to serve another year.
- 6-4C. Annual evaluations shall be conducted by the Senior Elder in cooperation with the Apostolic Council, an evaluation team or a combination of both. A written report shall be given to the Senior Elder and the person being evaluated.
- 6-4D. Evaluations are for the purpose of growth. In the event of a report that one's service is unsatisfactory or that one is no longer suited for the position, the Eldership Team and Senior Elder shall review the specified deficiencies with the member. The Eldership Team and the Senior Elder shall determine whether it would be best for the member to relinquish their position or continue as a member and work to improve the specified deficiencies.
- 6-4E. In addition to the evaluations, at any time the Senior Elder and other Eldership Team members may vote to suspend or remove the member if deemed to be in the best interests of the organization. DOVE's Apostolic Council shall be included in the process of suspension or removal. Discipline shall be invoked in accordance with the written Policy of Discipline and Restoration outlined in the DOVE Handbook.
- 6-4F. The Senior Elder shall be evaluated by members of the Apostolic Council or appointed designates, an evaluation team or a combination of both. A full report shall be given to the Senior Elder and the Apostolic Council and a summary report given to the Eldership Team.
- 6-4G. In the event of the necessity of termination of the responsibility of the Senior Elder due to failure morally, irreconcilable

conflicts, disorderly conduct or apostasy, the Apostolic Council shall give leadership to this process along with the Eldership members. The Apostolic Council, with counsel from the Eldership Team, shall suspend the Senior Elder pending a thorough review and application of the written policy for discipline and restoration. The DOVE Apostolic Council, with counsel from the Eldership Team will appoint an Acting Elder immediately, who will serve until restoration or a replacement is discerned.

6-4H. In the event that the number of persons on the Eldership Team drops below the required two for ninety days, then the longest serving cell group leader of the Partner Church shall immediately begin serving. If more than one replacement is required, then the next most cell leader shall be selected until all vacancies are filled. This is a temporary position with full authority until either the person is confirmed or another person is appointed.

Officers

6-5A. At the annual meeting, the Eldership Team shall appoint a vice-chairman, secretary and a treasurer as officers of the Eldership Team. The Senior Elder as the president of the Eldership Team shall oversee the appointment process. Members of the Eldership Team may hold up to two offices. The president shall not serve in the capacity of secretary or treasurer.

6-5B. The designation of officers, except president, shall be by unanimous decision of the Eldership Team. Such appointed officers shall serve in their capacities until such time as the Eldership Team should appoint otherwise.

6-5C. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Board and of Congregational meetings of business, and all such other duties as pertain to this office as may be prescribed by the Board.

6-5D. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all funds and securities of the Church and shall deposit the same in the name of the Church in such Bank or Banks as the Board of Directors may select.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

The eldership team may appoint such additional committees to assist it in the discharge of its duties as it may deem advisable.

ARTICLE VIII: MEMBERSHIP VOTING

The church has a no voting membership. Spiritual decisions affecting the life of the local body of the church are under the care of its Elders.

QUALIFICATIONS

The membership of the church shall consist of those persons who meet the following qualifications:

1. They are in agreement with the statements as set forth in Article V.
2. They shall be a member in good standing of a cell group.
3. They shall be involved in the life of the church.
4. They shall recognize and submit to the elders leadership of the church.
5. They shall express commitment to the church with the understanding that biblical church discipline will be used if necessary.

ACTIVE CELL GROUP LISTING

The Eldership Team will semiannually update the active cell group listing in accordance with its qualifications for members.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1 - DISSOLUTION BY ELDERSHIP TEAM

9-1A. In the event that this organization shall be dissolved and liquidated, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of this organization, the Eldership Team shall distribute or dispose of any remaining property and assets to such organization or organizations established and operated exclusively for religious purposes as, in its judgement, have purposes which are most closely allied to those of this organization; it being provided, however, that each transferee organization, at the time of such transfer, shall:

1. be a tax-exempt, religious Christian organization within the meaning and intent of Section 501 (C) (3) and Section 170 (b) (1) (A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of any successor Internal Revenue Law of the United States of America;
2. have been in existence for a continuous period of at least sixty (60) months;
3. be an organization to which contributions are deductible under Section 170, Section 2055 and Section 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of any successor Internal Revenue Law of the United States of America.

9-1B. DOVE International (DOVE) shall be given first consideration in this dissolution of assets.

SECTION 2 - DISSOLUTION BY COURT

Any of this organization's property and assets not disposed of in accordance with ARTICLE IX, Section 1, shall be disposed of by the court having jurisdiction of the dissolution and liquidation of a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under and in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and having jurisdiction in the county of this organization's registered office exclusively to such religious organization or organizations, each of which is established and operated exclusively for such purposes as are most closely allied to those of this organization and each of which, at the time of such disposal, is a qualified, tax-exempt organization as aforesaid, as said court shall determine.

ARTICLE X: LIABILITY

10-1A. No member of the Eldership Team and/or committee shall be personally liable, as such, for monetary damages for any action taken unless:

1. the member has breached or failed to perform the duties of office in good faith, in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the corporation, and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances; and
2. the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

10-1B. This provision cannot by law release a member from liability under criminal laws or for proper payment of taxes.