

Church Planting Manifesto: New Groups for New People -- Summary April 2010

EMCC embraces church planting that recruits, equips, deploys and networks self-sufficient teams to pioneer creative and relevant expressions of the Christian church.

New Groups for New People

The same values and principles are applicable to every congregation that is committed to NEW GROUPS FOR NEW PEOPLE, whether or not they understand this as 'church planting' and irrespective of the deployment of 'self-sufficient teams.'

The "God-modeled, Jesus-Led, Spirit-Empowered" Community on Mission

- Even as the Father has sent Me...
- All that Jesus began to do and teach...
- Receive Power...
- Each follower carries the seed of a new community

Church Planting flows from Mission

1. We believe that each individual is called to follow Jesus. As such it is important to express the 'bottom line' in simple terms – It is all about following Jesus.
2. We believe that it is important to empower each follower of Jesus by articulating the life of a disciple in simple, memorable terms. (See the Seven Fold Way of Following Jesus statement below.)
3. We believe that our primary purpose is to establish new communities of faith that will proclaim and demonstrate the gospel in their 'neighborhood' – 'new groups for new people.'
4. We recruit and work through teams who are responsible for their own work's support. We acknowledge that there may also be birthing through mother-daughter or by a catalytic leader. In each case the planting church or individual is responsible for the support.
5. Teams are expected to think in fresh ways, to dare and dream, to explore new ways of 'being the church.'
6. There is no one model of church that we advocate - discover ways of being church that are rooted in this culture. (See below for the characteristics of a vital Jesus Community.)

Reclaiming our Mission

- North American realities
- 'Sentness' must drive us
- Not money driven
- Affirm 'Living on Mission'

Three Paradigm Shifts

- From Internal to External
- From Church to Kingdom
- From Program to Personal

Values Driven: Not about methodology

We value...

- Relationship
- Courage
- Creativity and diversity
- Catalyzing and empowering
- The Spirit's leading

- All people
- Provision by God
- Uncluttered Lives
- Humility

We believe that it is vital that each believer OWNS the importance of following Jesus – It is not up to the pastor or the church. Jesus said, ‘YOU, follow ME.’

1. I have begun following Jesus, and am depending on the Spirit of Jesus in my journey.
2. I am being sent by Jesus to bless others and invite them to follow Him.
3. I am learning to be like Jesus in my attitudes, behaviours, character.
4. I am learning to love God by obeying Him and loving others by serving them.
5. I am learning the teachings of Jesus.
6. I am helping someone and someone is helping me to be a growing follower of Jesus.
7. I am participating in a community on mission to the world.

7 Fold Way Statement

- Christ-centred – It is about following Jesus!
- Trinitarian –the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit
- empowering –I connect directly to Jesus. I am not a copy of a copy of a copy
- simple – not abstract
- memorable – short
- lifetime value – never outgrow them
- humility – no one ‘arrived’
- incarnational – ‘like Jesus’
- missional – ‘sent’ by Jesus
- personal & individual – onus is on the ‘I’
- corporate – life with others and for others – working together, learning together, walking together.

Like Produces Like Leaders

1. I am modelling growth as Follower of Jesus (7FoldWay)
2. I am responding to the Spirit’s leading
3. I am exercising spiritual discernment
4. We are developing others using the 7Fold Way.
5. We are mentoring to the Fourth Generation.
6. We are training, refining & releasing leaders according to their gifts.
7. We are participating in community on mission together.

Jesus’ Community

1. Devoted to Jesus and His teaching
2. Like Jesus in attitudes, behaviours and character
3. Discerns giftedness, equips for service
4. Identifies and Nurtures empowering leaders
5. Moves outward in service
6. Practices His Presence
7. Supports each follower’s pursuit of Jesus

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