

The Nature of Dynamic Church Planting Movements: Defining the Elements of Effective Church Planting Movements

Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis, August 30, 2007

A Missional Appraisal of Dynamic Church Planting Movements					
Elements		Shared Spirituality	People Group Identity	Dynamic Standardization	Level of Fruitfulness
Term		Spiritual Formation	Contextualization	Multiplication	
Definition		Possessing a common spiritual identity in a church body that expresses the Great Tradition	Affirming our freedom in Christ to embody the faith within ethnicity and culture	Rapidly reproducing healthy churches of a kind through shared protocols and resources	
Explanation		Presumes a valid, distinctive apostolic spiritual identity embodied in a church body (why and what)	Conditions how that identity is understood, practiced (where and with whom)	Determines how that identity is formed, nourished, and multiplied (how)	
Burden		To express a common spiritual vision and discipline in shared practice	To contextualize within a culture or people group	To organize and coordinate resources for the common good	
Alternative Approaches in Church Planting	Model 1	Cultivated identity built on spirituality and practice	Full attention to culture and ethnicity	Integrated structures and common protocols	Most Effective
	Model 2	Shared elements of spirituality and practice	More attention to culture and ethnicity	Voluntary structures and optional protocols	More Effective
	Model 3	Divergent, dissimilar spirituality and practice	Some attention to culture and ethnicity	Iconoclastic structures and divergent protocols	Less Effective
	Model 4	Fragmented approaches to spirituality and practice	No attention to culture and ethnicity	Arbitrary structures and random protocols	Least Effective

History and identity (*our common heritage*). Our church planting movements must anchor themselves in the Great Tradition while, at the same time, identify themselves within a church body which shares a common identity and history that all embrace, regardless of culture or ethnicity.

Membership and belonging (*our common discipline*). Our church planting movements must be anchored in evangelical and historically orthodox presentations of the Gospel that results in conversions to Jesus Christ and incorporation into solid, healthy local churches.

Theology and doctrine (*our common faith*). Our church planting movements must be anchored in a common theology and Christian education (catechism) that reflects a commonly held faith rooted in the Great Tradition.

Worship and liturgy (*our common worship*). Our church planting movements must share a hymnody, liturgy, symbology, and spiritual formation that enables them to worship and glorify God, and also challenges them to contextualize the faith in ways that attracts and appeals to urbanites.

Convocation and association (*our common partnership*). Our church planting movements must seek to connect, link, and associate the congregations and leaders within our movements to one another in regular communication, fellowship, and partnership in mission.

Justice and support ministries (*our common service*). Our church planting movements must demonstrate the love and justice of the Kingdom in the city in practical ways that allow its congregations to love their neighbors as they love themselves.

Resources and finances (*our common stewardship*). Our church planting movements must handle their financial affairs and resources with wise, streamlined, and reproducible policies that allow for the good management of our monies and goods.

Church government (*our common polity*). Our church planting movements must be organized around a common polity, management, and governing policy that allow for efficient management of their opportunities and resources.

Leadership development policies and strategies (*our common shepherding*). Our church planting movements must identify, equip, and support pastors and missionaries in our congregations that join our leaders to one another in faith and practice.

Evangelism and missions (*our common mission*). Our church planting movements must coordinate their efforts and activities to give clear witness of Jesus in the city, resulting in planting significant numbers of new congregations who join our movements as quickly as possible.