



So, You Want to Daughter a Church?!

Recommended Timeline/Steps to Planting a Daughter Church

Regional Home Missionary

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“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

1. **Prayer:** As pastor and officers with RHM, begin praying with great expectations and hopefulness in how Jesus can use your congregation as an instrument of sowing seed for another field for harvest, another outpost of heaven where sinners can find hope in Christ and become worshipers in Spirit and truth. *Remember: We must remember that nothing can be truly accomplished for Christ apart from prayer (Read Acts 1:14, 24; 2:42-47; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4; Eph. 6:18-20; Rom. 12:12)! Let us pray continually in union with Christ (John 15:1-7). Let us be reminded that planting fruitful, enduring, flourishing churches is ultimately because of prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit. Meditate upon: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the LORD” (Zech. 4:6 and larger, post-exilic context of building the temple).*
2. **Read/Discuss:** Read together as pastor and officers ‘Planting an Orthodox Presbyterian Church’. Begin to set apart times in session meetings to pray about and discuss together. Invite RHM to come and answer any questions. *Remember: “Expect great things from our faithful God; attempt great things for our God” (Meditate upon: Eph. 3:20-21; John 14:12-14). Remember that we are a people on mission, sent by God through Christ’s meditation, empowered and endued by His Holy Spirit (John 17:18; 20:21-23).*
3. **Presbyters-Elders Meeting:** Meet with RHM to discuss formally; meet together with other congregations who have already daughtered a congregation for wisdom and encouragement. *Remember: Pray for wisdom, ask for wisdom, seek guidance from others and God will be pleased to bless your efforts. Learn what to do, and what NOT to do in church planting.*
4. **Set Specific Goals:** Think about a specific time in the future when you would desire to see this daughter church implemented (e.g. “September 2025”). Be watchful, sober-minded, and careful here. *Remember: Jesus is the exalted, enthroned, King of kings and Lord of lords: “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from His Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this...Spirit” (Acts 2:33). Our exalted Priest-King is intent on further storming the gates of hell through your endeavor; He promises to build His church! You can expect some push back, affliction, difficulties in this godly mission, but it is worth it for God’s glory. We should remember that throughout the Book of Acts, the church grew through persecution (this repeated time and again). This gives us a reminder that God builds His church in ways that are paradoxical and even strange to us (His ways are not our ways!). Through subtraction, God builds and extends His church and His kingdom. So, we learn that when churches were reduced, they actually grew in size, by way of extension for more locations and more communities and more people having an outpost of heaven in their midst where Jesus sits enthroned as the High-Priest-King who calls and receives sinners through the ordinary means of grace.*
5. **Budget:** Place a line item in your budget for the following year to begin to put aside funding for daughtering church, for deposit in a separate account for daughter church, and for a future church planter (begin praying for God to provide the ideal church planter). *Meditation: My God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory! (Phil. 4:19).*

6. **Present/Discuss with Congregation:** Present ideas to congregation, seek to have a conversation about this future expectation and hope for the congregation to work together for unity, peace, and the propagation of the Gospel for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. *Remember: Seek peace and pursue it; be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Phil. 4:2-5). Teach the saints this truth: "They overcame [the enemy] through the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony and did not love their lives even unto death" (Revelation 12:11). We seek to trust in the Word of God, to boldly speak our testimony, and to be self-denying in the church planting process because Christ in and through us is further binding the strong man, storming the gates of His foul and dark kingdom, and crushing the head of the Dragon-Serpent-Lord. Amen, and amen.*
7. **Regional Home Missionary:** Invite RHM to come and present and give presentations on this exciting new venture and vision. Encourage RHM to publish the desires and goals of mother congregation for daughtering in his prayer newsletter so that others may be praying and informed about this new endeavor for the glory of God.
8. **Interviewing/Discussion:** As elders think of a few families who regionally live in the new area (such as "Berryville, VA or Culpeper, VA") and talk to them privately about their willingness to be part of a seed-group. Measure their maturity and desires, etc. Ask the RHM to help with these interviews at some point. Seek to get at least 10-12 families willing to serve as a seed-group, knowing fully the kind of sacrifice it takes to lay a foundation at a mission work, etc. Seek to interview 1-2 officers, preferably, ideally one deacon and one elder. *Remember: We desire to have families who are interested in church plant for more than comfort and convenience of location, although that can be good. But more importantly, let them be those who desire to die so that others can live through the establishment of a Gospel outpost of heaven for God's glory and the good of the community. The leaders of the church plant must be those who demonstrate this in their life. [If the seed group doesn't die, then a church will never live](#) (Meditate upon: John 12:23-32).*
9. **Bible Study:** At some point between discussion with congregation and with implementation in "September 2025", a Bible study begins in a person's home near where you want the church to be located in new area of Berryville (perhaps on a Wednesday evening or a Lord's Day afternoon if it doesn't interfere or distract from public worship services in the mother congregation). RHM, Pastor and Elders may lead Bible study in rotation. Eager, intentional, vigorous evangelism begins at this point in the area.
10. **Location of Meeting:** Look for location for initial worship services and meetings. Put on the calendar a sending off service from mother congregation, and a first service of worship for daughter congregation (e.g. "September __, 2025 at _____ in Berryville, VA or Culpeper, VA", etc).
11. **RHM Teaches with Pastor/Elders:** RHM continues to minister Gospel and Sacraments with pastor and elders as they seek to be recognized as a formal mission work at some future time to be determined wisely.
12. **Presbytery of Mid Atlantic:** Reception and Recognition as formal mission work of the PMA, seek denominational funding, and prayerfully seek a church planter. *Remember as an end goal of this process: "So the church [of the PMA region] had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied" (Acts 9:31).*

This is a recommended timeline to consider prayerfully and get started. If you have any questions, please contact your regional home missionary: crbiggs@comcast.net

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