

INSPIRE 2018

Planning church plants in your Presbytery

Let's talk new church plants

1) When last did your Presbytery or a congregation in your Presbytery start a new worshipping community?

2) What programs or committees does your Presbytery have in place that encourages church planting?

3) What models are there in the UPCSA for planting Churches?

4) Do you know about the different categories of congregations in the UPCSA? (see appendix)

5) Sharing the story of the eGoli Presbytery's Pioneering Incubator:

In 2017 the M & D Committee of the eGoli Presbytery tasked itself with helping the Presbytery plant 10 churches (worshiping communities etc.) in ten years. Considering that there has not been a new church in the Presbytery for a long time, it was decided to look at more ways of improving the *status quo*. The Pioneering Incubator was the result of that intention.

The purpose of the Incubator is to equip people/congregations with practical knowledge and skills and to start something new and then encourage/coach them.

The Incubator runs for 2 years involving Fresh Expressions {FE(SA)} providing some training in the first year and coaching in the first and second.

Selection process - 3 months:

The process begins with a selection of 6 congregations who will be the focus of the incubator. Congregations apply to the Presbytery to be one of the 6. The application must show that the congregation has the capacity and intention to pioneer something new. The congregation need not have the knowledge nor the confidence, but if there is no reasonable prospect, then the resources needed for the incubator is wasted.

Year 1: 12 months:

The incubator begins with a training phase - four Saturdays spread across the first year - 3 modules each Saturday, starting with basics selected from MSM/MSi and ending with a very practical day focusing on A06 "Starting something new". FE(SA) facilitators guide, mentor and accompany 6 church teams of 6 people (total 36 people) on a journey toward pioneering something new. FE provides presenters on invitation as agreed in advance. The aim is to give the six teams the resources they need to start something new

Year 2: 12 months:

During the second half of Year 1, the coaching phase begins. Coaches are focused on assisting teams in applying their learning on their contexts, engaging their communities and giving teams the confidence to start something new. The coaching continues to a maximum of 18 months and comprises of one two-hour session per church every second month.

The overall goal of the Incubator is to take 6 teams from 6 different congregations through a process that gives them the training and confidence they might need to start something new.

6) What has eGoli learned so far from the Incubator?

7) What can you do in your Presbytery or Congregation to place church planting on the agenda?

	Outstation <i>Can become a developing congregation, but does not have to</i>	New Worshipping Community <i>A brand new work that can become a developing congregation</i>	Developing Congregation <i>Works towards sustainability in leadership and ministry</i>	Calling Congregation <i>Is sustainable in terms of leadership and ministry and is working towards planting a new worshipping community</i>
Is it an entity in its own right? Who has oversight?	No, it's under a Session of a congregation who appoint elder(s) to be responsible	No, it's under a session or a Presbytery committee	Yes. It can have a session and stewardship body.	Yes. It has a session and stewardship body.
Who can serve this congregation? Does it have a right to call?	The minister, probationer or Interim Moderator (I.M.) of the parent congregation. Often a local elder who is a lay preacher helps. No right to call.	A CDE or the minister, probationer or Interim Moderator (I.M.) of the parent congregation or Pby Committee. No right to call.	An appointed Minister or I.M. Also a CDE or Stated Supply (both under oversight of IM). No right to call.	An appointed or called minister. Has the right to call. (Can have Stated Supply or CDE appointed by Presbytery)
Can this congregation receive financial assistance?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. If it needs financial assistance it must be Developing.
Who represents it at Presbytery? Can it send commissioners who vote?	Represented by parent congregation. Can't send commissioners.	Represented by parent congregation or Committee. Can't send commissioners.	When it has a Session it's represented by its commissioners. Otherwise by its IM.	It's represented by its commissioners.
Does it have a session, elders and	No, the parent congregation handles this.	No, the parent congregation / Pby Comm	Yes it can. Often this is a work in progress (i.e.	Yes

stewardship body of its own?		handles this.	leaders are being trained)	
How are finances handled?	Thru the stewardship body of the parent congregation who appoint local helpers	Thru the Pby Comm or stewardship body of the parent congregation who appoint local helpers	By the stewardship body.	By the stewardship body.
What documents does it sign upon commencement?	None	Statement of Intent Appendix A(2)	Statement of Intent Appendix A(2)	The Constitution of the UPCS.A.
Minimum Requirements	A place to meet A core group of worshippers	A place to meet, A core group of worshippers, The potential to become a sustainable congregation	A place to meet. Min 25 members. A group of leaders who could become elders and managers.	A place to meet. Min 25 members. A Session & Stewardship body. Able to meet the costs of ministry, assessments etc to the satisfaction of the Presbytery.
Pays Assessments?	No	No	Yes	Yes
How would it lose its designation?	Presbytery or the parent deems the work to be stagnant and not sustainable.	Presbytery or the parent deems the work to be stagnant and not sustainable.	If membership dwindles below 25, or its venue is not viable or it is unable to meet the costs of ministry.	If membership dwindles below 25, or its venue is not viable or it is unable to meet the costs of ministry.