

# Church Planter Residency

INFORMATION PACK

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# About

Church planting is a significant undertaking, requiring a broad skill set and training. Many planters rush to the field unprepared for the complexities awaiting them. A more effective, field-tested approach is needed—one that equips church planters with the vision, strategy, and plan to plant so they can thrive while planting, and beyond.

The Passion for Planting Church Planting Residency is a nine-month, peer-to-peer learning community for a small group of church planting leaders who want disciple-making, mobilization, and reproduction embedded into the DNA of their new churches. It is designed for planters committed to reaching the lost through disciple making and to launching new churches that are not just sustainable, but capable of long-term reproduction.

Our residency program has been developed through years of research, collaboration, and hands-on experience. Partnering with seasoned church planting practitioners, we've built a structured training model that integrates a comprehensive curriculum, peer-to-peer learning, and practical application in a way that is both scalable and adaptable. The residency provides you with a clear process, essential competencies, a custom strategic plan, and the relational support you need to navigate the complexities of church planting.

## Purpose

**To provide a proven, structured training pathway that equips church planters with the strategic skills, hands-on experience, planning tools, collaborative support network, and mentorship they need to confidently launch and sustain healthy, reproducing churches.**

# Church Planter Profile

## **When are these church planters hoping to plant?**

Ideally you are wanting to launch a new church within 12-18 months from the start of the Residency - you'll be in the Residency for 9 months and take another 9 to actively plant in your target community.

## **What kind of church “model” does the Residency support?**

While the Residency emphasizes relational disciple making, it supports many different church planting models and approaches. There are no cookie cutters in church planting - we'll make you wrestle with the questions and principles that lead you to a custom launch strategy tailored to your target community.

## **What kind of characteristics & experience are we looking for?**

*(This list is meant to be descriptive rather than prescriptive):*

- Spiritually Mature & Mission-Driven – Passionate about disciple-making and committed to advancing the Gospel through church planting
- Entrepreneurial-Minded – Comfortable with pioneering a new ministry, developing strategies, and taking calculated risks for Kingdom growth
- Self-Motivated & Teachable – Willing to take initiative, receive feedback, and grow through structured training and mentorship
- Resilient & Adaptable – Able to navigate challenges, setbacks, and the unpredictable nature of church planting with perseverance and faith
- Collaborative & Relational – Thrives in a team environment, values peer learning, and can build strong relationships with stakeholders and church communities
- Active Ministry Experience – Prior involvement in relational disciple-making and local church leadership/ministry roles (staff or volunteer)

## **What is my sponsor's involvement?**

Residents must have a sponsoring church and/or church planting network who will endorse their participation, and a local church congregation with supervising sponsor who will provide hands-on serving and training opportunities for you. The supervising sponsor must participate in the onboarding Zoom call.

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# Residency Overview

More than just theory—you'll gain practical training for real-world church planting through the R.O.P.E.S. training method:

- **R**esearch – Investigate your target community and study its culture
- **O**bserve – Participate in ministry at your local church and visit church plants
- **P**resent – Share your vision and strategies with peers and mentors, and even preach your Opening Day sermon
- **E**valuate – Receive and process feedback to refine your approach
- **S**upport – Encourage and be encouraged by your peers throughout your planting journey

## The Journey

The Passion for Planting Residency Cohort runs from September 2025 through early June 2026 and utilizes three integrated components:

- 1 LIVE VIRTUAL TRAINING**  
Learn and network with national church planting leaders during weekly Cohort Day video calls:
    - Wednesdays from 9am-3pm Eastern via Zoom (with break for lunch)
    - Over 30 practitioners from across the country share their expertise
  - 2 ONLINE COURSEWORK & HOMEWORK**  
Prepare for cohort days through:
    - engaging online course content
    - relevant blogs, podcasts, and videos
    - crafting contextual strategies for your church plant
    - building a custom action plan with dates, doers and dollars
-

# 3

## IN-PERSON INTENSIVES

Attend two 4-day onsite gatherings where you'll dive deep into critical pre-launch topics and establish the DNA for a reproducing church:

- Travel to Passion for Planting headquarters (New Life Christian Church, Chantilly, VA), stay in host homes
- First onsite: December 8 – 11, 2025; includes visits by and field trips to local church planters
- Second onsite: March 16 – 19, 2026; includes preaching Opening Day sermons and getting feedback

Explore our Residency Roadmap to see an overview of the topics we cover and when:



## Outcomes

### Peer-to-Peer Sharing

The residency cohort is a relational small group of planters like you, facilitated by Passion for Planting, the church planting ministry of New Life Christian Church with over 20 years of planting experience. As you journey with like-minded leaders, you'll share ideas and inspire each other to start the new churches God is calling you to lead.

### A Contextual Launch Strategy

Along the journey, you will prayerfully craft over 20 strategy documents, covering everything from Disciple Making and Fundraising to Marketing and Budget. All of these culminate in an overarching Launch Strategy tailored to your target community.

### A Custom Action Plan

Using Passion for Planting's proprietary church planting web app, PlanterPlan, you'll put together a custom action plan with everything you need to keep track of the details: a checklist of tasks, due date calculation, team collaboration, delegation tools, etc. You'll be able to execute your real-world action plan the day after you finish the residency (if not before)!

### A Final Presentation

At the end of the Cohort, you'll present your strategy and your plan to peers and church planting leaders (think of it like defending a thesis—minus the academic stress).

# Your Leaders

Passion for Planting was started over 20 years ago when the church planting leaders at New Life Christian Church discovered that planters were drowning in details. Our aim has always been to keep church planters focused on people.

We started our Residency in 2015 to give church planters an edge in starting healthy, reproducing churches. Built with the rigor of a college-level course, the Residency will give you new knowledge and skills in church planting. It is facilitated by Sean Cronin, an experienced planter practitioner who has led our residency cohorts since 2016. He brings in over 30 presenters from our network of church planting leaders across the country to give you new insights and connections. Patrick Bradley oversees the program and Todd Wilson provides strategic direction. Together, they will prepare you to plant a healthy, reproducing church.



**Sean Cronin**

**Training Lead**

**Achiever | Context | Belief**

I lead the Residency Cohort focused on helping church planters gain a clearer vision for the church God's calling them to plant. I don't offer a lot of answers but ask a lot of questions to help them discern how Jesus wants to build His church through them. I do this with the goal of helping them develop a plan that guides their efforts to pursue the vision God's giving them.



**Patrick Bradley**

**Director of Operations**

**Ideation | Developer | Strategic**

I equip church planting leaders by creating tools and systems that keep church planters focused on people. I want church planters to experience the confidence of having a contextual strategic plan and the enjoyment that comes from spending less time on the details.



**Todd Wilson**

**Executive Director**

**Futuristic | Strategic | Activator**

I serve leaders and ministries who are pursuing multiplication, and help them develop vision and strategy for 100X impact. I'm an entrepreneurial engineer, passionate about creating pictures of future possibilities and strategies for turning them into reality.

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# Investment & Return

## What is the investment of time, talent and treasure?

- Application submission with \$500 registration fee
- Nine-month commitment
- One face-to-face kickoff event in Chantilly, VA (1 day)
- Two face-to-face gatherings in Chantilly, VA (4 days each)
- Weekly 6-hour virtual gatherings (Wednesdays 9am-3pm Eastern)
- Cost of travel to the three in-person events
- Courage and perseverance to do the hard work of preparing to plant

## What results should I expect?

When you complete the cohort, you will have:

- A better understanding of church planting principles and practices
- A compelling vision for a new church
- A launch strategy tailored to your target community, with guidance and feedback from your peers and mentors
- A custom action plan with practical timeline to launch a reproducing church
- Priority consideration for P4P's project management support (with limited grants available)
- New friendships with like-minded church planting leaders
- Enthusiasm for implementing your strategic plan

**You will be eligible for a \$5,000 cash grant toward your church plant when you successfully complete the cohort. Find out more at [church-planting.net/residency/grant](https://church-planting.net/residency/grant)**

## How do I apply?

You must be recommended by a sponsoring organization or leader. Submit an online application along with their written endorsement via [church-planting.net/residency/application](https://church-planting.net/residency/application) no later than August 1, 2025. The cohort will have a maximum of 12 residents. Space will be filled on a first-come basis of qualified applicants who finish the application and approval process.



APPLICATION

## Questions?

For questions about the Church Planting Residency,  
email [residency@church-planting.net](mailto:residency@church-planting.net)

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