**Converge Church Planting Weekend**

**General Sermon Talking Points**

We celebrate Church Plant Weekend because we recognize God is working in our neighborhoods, communities and around the world (Acts 1:8).

**Talking points**

1. It’s Biblical – Just read the book of Acts

2. It boosts – We start new churches because it boosts the success in reaching the lost. It offers new, fresh, and effective ways to share the good news of Jesus.

3. It’s beneficial – Parent churches benefit from the season of focus/re-focus on the importance of evangelism. As a result, existing churches recapture their missional heart and edge.

**9 Reasons we should plant churches**

1. Church planting is the most effective way to reach the unchurched.

2. Church planting revitalizes a community.

3. Church planting is part of the Great Commission.

 Questions to consider:

 1. Who are we not reaching in our Jerusalem that we have an opportunity to reach?

 2. Who are we not meeting in our Judea, that we have an opportunity to meet?

 3. Do we have a nucleus of people who drive a great distance to worship with us?

 4. Who are we not reaching in our Samaria that we have an opportunity to reach?

 - Are there language barriers we need to overcome?

 - Are there cultural barriers that we need to overcome?

 - Are there generational barriers that we need to overcome?

 5. Who are we not reaching globally that we have an opportunity too reach?

 6. Are we training and sending people out in each sphere of ministry?

4. Church planting is the normal business of the local church and the local church is where Christians are taught to obey everything Jesus commanded.

5. The first hearers of the Great Commission fulfilled it by planting churches. The best indication of what Jesus meant (in the Great Commission) can be found in how the hearers responded.

6. Churches that plant churches grow faster than those who do not

7. Church plants are more effective at reaching new people groups and new socio- economic groups

8. There is a need. Population is growing at a rate exponentially faster than we are currently starting new churches.

9. More need…less than 18% of Americans attend church on a given weekend.

**Debunking the Myths around Church Planting (5 myths)**

**Myth 1**: Planting will hurt the parent church

Fact:

* Seldom is this true - in fact, most parenting churches find a new season of vitality after parenting.
* God honors the giving, brings in new leaders, and raises ip those who have been waiting for an opportunity to serve.
* We are blessed when we are a blessing.
* Statistically speaking - churches that plant grow faster than those who do not.

**Myth 2:** Planting hurts existing churches

Fact:

* New churches set new standards and raise the quality of ministry in a community.
* Planting helps existing churches recapture their Missional heart and edge.
* New churches seek to reach the unchurched. In most communities this is well over half the population. Many more.
* New churches are needed to reach them.
* New churches often times reach differ age, ethnic, or socio-economical groups.

**Myth 3:** There is no room for another church in our area

Fact:

* Most new churches are reaching out to a completely different age, ethnic, or demographic than our existing churches.
* New church plants are reaching out to unchurched people, not trying to shuffle the sheep from one church to another.
* The ministry style and worship of a new church will be very different from the existing churches and will draw new people.

**Myth 4:** We are too small to plant

Fact:

* Many small churches have successfully helped start new churches. Several small churches can partner in starting a new church.
* It is not uncommon for parenting churches to replace those who were sent out and grow by 10% within a year’s time.
* Large churches sometimes have a more difficult time persuading people to go out to plant a new church than do small to medium sized churches.
* More important than size in the ability to plant is the health and the missional heart of the people of the church.

**Myth 5:** America is over-churched

Fact:

* The true measure is not the number of church buildings in an area, but rather the number of unchurched people.
* The fact is we would double the number of churches in America and still not be close to meeting the current needs.
* The population is growing exponentially faster than we are currently starting new churches and existing churches are closing at a rate of 3700 per year.
* Less than 18% of Americans attend church on any given Sunday.