

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 8, 2014

INFORMATION:

1. Committee Roster

2. FCPN

Florida Church Planting Network (FCPN) is currently funding 9 church plants within the Network geography (including two church planting projects in SWFL).

FCPN is increasing their contribution to presbytery askings for network churches to .3% of the previous year's tithes and offerings. (Approximately \$300 for every \$100,000 of tithes and offerings.) This should result in an increase of the amount of money coming to the presbytery. However, this amount does not fulfill a church's obligation to the presbytery. Network churches would need to also contribute directly to the presbytery to meet their askings.

3. SWFL church planting projects (see reports below)

4. SWFL potential church planting projects

We have a couple of potential church planters interested in planting in downtown St. Pete. The MNA committee is looking for churches which could apprentice potential church planter for this work.

5. Presbytery multiplication- discussion

Years ago (perhaps at the Presbytery formation) we agreed that the Presbytery would multiply when there are 30 churches in the Presbytery. There are currently 26 churches in the Presbytery and 3 missions (Sojourner, Harbor Community, and Strong Tower). The MNA Committee is working with at least one potential church planter to begin a work/s in late 2014 or early 2015.

MNA has guidelines for Presbytery multiplication. The numeric guidelines for Presbytery multiplication are suggested as follows:

- A Presbytery should have a minimum of 10 churches and mission churches.
- A Presbytery should have a total communicant membership of at least 1,000.
- A Presbytery should have at least 3 churches each having a membership of at least 125 communicant members

REPORTS FROM CHURCH PLANTERS:

Steve Light (Sojourner- Tampa)

Sojourner Presbyterian Church (mission) continues to move forward in its phase of gathering people. Currently the core group meets weekly on Sunday nights at the Light's home for bible study, prayer, fellowship, and training. Please pray for a neighborhood outreach scheduled for February 15th, plans taking shape for a VBS this summer, the provision of a place to begin worship, and a few more key families to become part of the core group. Visit our website at www.sojournerpca.org.

Ben Turner (Strong Tower- Lakeland)

Personal- Our daughter will be 1-year old on March 5th. Our family is in-between homes right now. The

apartment we were renting had a major water leak, so we had to move out. We're currently staying with a family in our church until we purchase a house in March. My wife and I enjoyed a two-week stay with family over the Christmas holiday.

Core Group Bible Study - We still have about 100 in attendance on Wednesday nights (including children). Just finished our series on Galatians. We are beginning a short series on "Expectations" as we move closer to our launch date (April 6th, 2014).

Discipleship - Men's group of 7 men about to multiply in March into 7 groups. Women's group about to multiply into 2 groups. Very excited about the energy surrounding these groups and the transformation taking place.

Fundraising - By God's gracious provision, we've reached our original goal of \$585,000 in pledges to help offset the costs of our first 7 years! We are very grateful to those who've been so generous to this work.

Prayer - Pray for God's Spirit to work on the hearts of the people in our church and neighborhood. Pray for our marriage as we enter into what can be a challenging spiritual season. Pray for our men and women who are taking ownership of the church plant and leading our emerging ministries. Musicians and singers for our praise team. We need an additional \$15,000, not budgeted in our fundraising, to cover unexpected expenses (office space and electrical work for our worship site).

Geoff Henderson (Harbor-West Bradenton)

We met as a core group bi-monthly throughout the Fall and began incorporating gathering parties into the rhythm of our church life. Much of what I've been doing this Fall is casting vision for what this church will look like, meeting with potential leaders, and gathering folks who don't know Christ or His church, and connecting to others at our parties. Our December party proved profitable as we had over 65 adults and 18 kids in attendance. From that party, God has opened up a few doors for one couple to join our core, a few interested, and even a donor.

Harbor wrapped up its core group meetings early in January and finally began breaking up into 3 ministry teams. We will be having bi-monthly worship services in the community to spread the word and to gather new faces, ideally targeting those who've been to our parties. We will launch 2-3 community groups in March. Currently we have about 30 adults and 9 kids, but I'm praying a big prayer that the Lord would allow us to get to 50 involved adults by the end of February. After our outdoor (under the Pavillions in several area parks) services, we'll head into the YMCA for one final preview service on April 6th. Our first official launch service will take place on Easter Sunday April 20th. For more info, check out our website or email me to get onto our monthly email list.

[http://harborcommunitychurch.org/
geoff@harborcommunitychurch.org](http://harborcommunitychurch.org/geoff@harborcommunitychurch.org)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE- M/S/P:

- 1. The MNA committee recommends the presbytery approve the terms of call to Geoff Henderson (see attached).**
- 2. The MNA committee recommends that the presbytery approve Geoff Henderson's housing allowance in the amount \$28,800 (see attached).**

Respectfully submitted,



Barry A. "Drew" Bennett, Chairman