



Covenants Establishing _____ as Church Planter with the Bethel Network

We commit to support one another in our efforts to reach the lost. Specifically, while properly providing for sustaining the local expression of the Bethel Network, we covenant to bring our mutual resources of prayer, people and finances together in common cause to establish a new church through affiliation with The Bethel Network. We as well covenant to work together in accordance with the policies and processes that govern The Bethel Network. We further covenant to unselfishly support each other through the sharing of other resources, talents and capabilities as both the need and the availability of resources may require. (I Peter 4:10; I Corinthians 12:12-14)

For The Bethel Network: _____ Date: _____

Church Planter: _____ Date: _____

We commit to adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message in all matters of doctrine, and to faithfully preach these beliefs as foundational to a right relationship with God. We further covenant to consult and support each other in assuring this doctrine is adequately expressed to those in our care. (Ephesians 4:14; I Timothy 6:3-5)

For The Bethel Network: _____ Date: _____

Church Planter: _____ Date: _____

We commit to hold each other accountable in regard to ethics, morals, personal spiritual growth, leadership in our families and carrying out mutually agreed upon plans. We further commit to meet regularly to examine our actions in regard to these areas and honestly assess our actions in them. We grant each other the freedom to speak loving truth regarding our commitments and actions in each area as the situation may warrant. (Romans 14:18-19; Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 15:14; Titus 2:7b-8)

For The Bethel Network: _____ Date: _____

Church Planter: _____ Date: _____

Recognizing that the new church being planted must be relevant to the context in which it finds itself, we covenant to intentionally move people along the path of discipleship, from that initial stage of seeking a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, through various stages ultimately to that of actively discipling others. We further commit to achieve this end through relational means, mentoring others along this path, also recognizing that individual development of Christian maturity and Christian character follows no set pattern or timeline. (John 13:15-26; Philippians 3:17; I Thessalonians 1:6-7)

For The Bethel Network: _____ Date: _____

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As we journey together, situations will arise which will require making tough decisions regarding the viability and wisdom of taking, or continuing down, certain paths as they relate to the establishment of this new church. We therefore commit that these decisions will be made prayerfully and mutually while adhering to previously agreed upon criteria, milestones or other means of fairly measuring progress made along the path chosen. We further commit to seeking the solution or decision which best supports our core values and advances our strategy. (Proverbs 15:22, 16:33; Romans 15:5-6)

For The Bethel Network: _____ Date: _____

Church Planter: _____ Date: _____

Understanding the nature of church planting and its demand on the church planters time and resources, the Bethel Network covenants to support _____ in the amount of \$ _____ monthly for a period not to exceed ___ months. We jointly commit, within 30 days of the Network's approval of the church planter, to establish a series of milestones for us to ascertain the progress of this mutual partnership. Our actions on the basis of the measurement of these milestones will be governed by all of our existing covenants to which we have committed ourselves.

For The Bethel Network: _____ Date: _____

Church Planter: _____ Date: _____

In addition to the above covenants, I agree to meet the following criteria in regard to my affiliation with the Bethel Network:

1. I will allow the Bethel Network to evaluate both me and the context in which I am called to plant—spiritually, financially, and demographically.
2. I will allow the Bethel Network to provide financial oversight in regard to funds related to the church plant. Donations and support from other churches and individuals will flow to the Bethel Network, who will set up an account for the specific church plant. This will provide accountability for financial dealings as well as provide donors with a 501.3.c destination.
3. I will jointly work with the Bethel Network in developing a ministry plan regarding the establishment of the proposed church plant. This plan will include criteria for establishment of church plant leadership; assistance to be provided by the Bethel Network in terms of prayer, people and finances; and will encompass all aspects of incorporating the prayer, people and finances of other supporting churches that are not part of the Bethel Network. Jointly agreed-upon milestones will be utilized to map and measure the church plant's progress. Eventual "graduation" of the Church Plant to a fully self-sustaining church which in turn is actively engaged in planting other new churches is the overall goal of this series of actions.
4. Agree to consult the Bethel Network leadership in all matters relating to the church plant, including (but not limited to) demographic and locale of the church plant insofar as it is within the vision given by God to those planting; major expenditures greater than 5% of the church plant's start-up budget; personnel hiring and de-hiring; background checks for children's workers; doctrinal issues; and real property transactions related to any temporary or permanent facility.

Church Planter: _____ Date: _____
