

## Preparing to Parent Values Assessment for Churches

*This assessment is based on the values of healthy parent churches found in Churches Planting Churches by Robert E. Logan and Steven L. Ogne (ChurchSmart Resources, 1995)*

The following is a qualitative assessment of congregational readiness to birth a new church. While birthing potential is latent in almost any context, this tool is intended to assess and call attention to the values that tend to support the parenting of new churches.

Answer each question according to the following scale:

- | 0     | 1                                                                                                            | 2         | 3     |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| NEVER | RARELY                                                                                                       | SOMETIMES | OFTEN |
| 1.    | Our church is characterized by investing resources into the lives of people who are not members.             |           |       |
| 2.    | Our ministry style is one that outsiders can quickly relate to.                                              |           |       |
| 3.    | Our church is often taking on new methods to share the good news of Jesus.                                   |           |       |
| 4.    | We have a history of raising up new leaders for ministry.                                                    |           |       |
| 5.    | Our congregation has a pattern of making bold plans that depend on God's provision.                          |           |       |
| 6.    | Leadership at our church seems to care less about who gets the credit as long as the job gets done.          |           |       |
| 7.    | We have a giving community. We often collect funds for those outside our ministry.                           |           |       |
| 8.    | Our church has ministries outside our walls where the message and presence of Jesus is shared.               |           |       |
| 9.    | The teaching of our church engages seekers and speaks to their needs.                                        |           |       |
| 10.   | Our leadership often reminds us of the number of people yet to be reached in our community.                  |           |       |
| 11.   | We have watched with joy as some of our best leaders move on to new ministry opportunities.                  |           |       |
| 12.   | Our church has often had to rely entirely on God to reach its goals.                                         |           |       |
| 13.   | Our congregation has partnered with other denominations to do effective ministry.                            |           |       |
| 14.   | We have committed funds to help plant new ministries outside our walls.                                      |           |       |
| 15.   | Our congregation has mobilized to meet significant needs in the community.                                   |           |       |
| 16.   | The worship of our church is led in a way that engages seekers and speaks to their needs.                    |           |       |
| 17.   | Our church never lets money stand in the way of making new disciples.                                        |           |       |
| 18.   | There is a "leadership pathway" at church whereby new leaders are mentored and trained.                      |           |       |
| 19.   | We dream God-sized dreams and worry about the resources later.                                               |           |       |
| 20.   | Our congregation is focused on people being followers of Christ, not on what denomination they are part of.  |           |       |
| 21.   | Our congregation has recruited funds and people to help start a new church.                                  |           |       |
| 22.   | We have a portion of our church budget that is devoted to making a caring impact on the community around us. |           |       |

23. Our congregation is connected to the community needs around us in ways that are well received by outsiders.
24. We have a culture where making new disciples is expected and planned for.
25. Our pastors and staff are often empowering younger leaders and encouraging their development.
26. Our congregation has stories of how God met needs beyond our dreams.
27. We are not easily threatened by new church starts nearby.
28. Our church has a history of reaching funding goals for outreach efforts.
29. Our leadership gives considerable time to discern and strategize how to show the love of Christ to our community.
30. I have noticed dimensions of our ministry that attract new people.
31. In the last year there has been at least one class or sermon series on how to share our faith winsomely.
32. Our church has a ministry in identifying, training, and releasing new ministry leaders.
33. We trust that where God leads, God provides.
34. Our leadership has an abundance mentality as far as ministry opportunities are concerned.
35. We maintain a percentage of our church budget that is committed for mission-type efforts.

**Answers:**

I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
1. ____	2. ____	3. ____	4. ____	5. ____	6. ____	7. ____
8. ____	9. ____	10. ____	11. ____	12. ____	13. ____	14. ____
15. ____	16. ____	17. ____	18. ____	19. ____	20. ____	21. ____
22. ____	23. ____	24. ____	25. ____	26. ____	27. ____	28. ____
29. ____	30. ____	31. ____	32. ____	33. ____	34. ____	35. ____

**Totals from Each Column and Parenting Values Each Column Represents**

I. \_\_\_\_\_ **Compassion for the Unchurched:** Cares enough about lost people to invest significant amounts of time, energy, and resources to reach them.

II. \_\_\_\_\_ **Culturally Relevant Style:** Utilizes a style of ministry that attracts seekers and addresses their needs.

III. \_\_\_\_\_ **Great Commission Orientation:** Sees ministry potential in terms of limitations of facilities and/or finances. Committed to make disciples and multiply.

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ **Developing and Releasing Leaders:** Actively seeks to stop, train, and/or mentor potential planters; encourages giving away the best leaders to start new churches.

V. \_\_\_\_\_ **Confidence in God's Ability:** Makes bold plans for the future, recognizing that our faith rests in God's resources and not our own.

VI. \_\_\_\_\_ **Kingdom Perspective:** Encouraging new churches to start nearby even if it takes away from the local ministry. Views the total harvest to be most important.

VII. \_\_\_\_\_ **Generosity:** Healthy churches will freely give financial resources to help start new churches.

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

SCORING SCALE:

85-105      Your church is likely to be a good candidate to parent a new church, having established the essential values in your culture to support the vision.

70-85      Your congregation is on their way to parenting as you are becoming familiar with the values that support church planting.

55-70      Your congregation is early in the process of becoming a multiplying culture. Your next step is identifying several values to improve.

0-55      Your ministry is exploring a major shift in values as you consider parenting. Your next step should be working on one area at a time.

*Great Lakes Region, RCA  
Ben Ingebretson 10/08*