**Church Planting Residency Syllabus**

**Purpose**

The church-planting residency is designed to prepare biblically qualified men to plant faithful, reproducing churches in a geographical area / community the Lord has chosen. The residency aims to introduce God-called men to a body of helpful resources and relationships that will serve them as they endeavor to plant faithful churches in that area and beyond. The residency is not to be considered exhaustive training for pastoral ministry, but rather a residency for those already formally trained but lacking ministerial experience and specific training in the area of church planting. Candidates selected will either be formally trained for ministry at a trusted institution or will have exhibited a sufficient competency in that area before acceptance into the residency.

**Overview**

The Church Planting Residency is a minimum of one-year residential program requiring full-time attention, generally beginning in August of each year and concluding in July. The residency combines practical “hands on” pastoral experiences, academic instruction and pastoral mentorship.

**NAMB & State Convention Partnerships**

This residency is conducted in partnership with the North American Mission Board and the [YOUR STATE] Southern Baptist state convention, specifically for church planting in identified strategic areas. At the conclusion of their time in residence, accepted residents will be expected to plant Southern Baptist churches in those areas. These churches are expected to work toward reproduction early and to work in happy cooperation with NAMB and the state convention into the foreseeable future.

**Acceptance Steps**

* Express interest in the residency to your church’s pastor or church-planting director
* Fill out the church’s “Prospective Church Planter Questionnaire”
* Apply and receive acceptance to the NAMB Church Planting Apprenticeship, begin application process at [namb.net](http://www.namb.net) (entire process takes approximately 2 months)
* Apply and receive acceptance into the [STATE CONVENTION] Church Planter Apprenticeship (Your pastor or church-planting director will guide you into that process)
* Confirm agreement with doctrinal positions of your church.
* Confirm spousal approval.
* Confirm agreement with the Church Planter Commitments (Appendix B of the *Thresholds* book)
* Complete the Church Planter Questionnaire

**Some Expectations**

* Serve as a faithful member of your church throughout the residency
* Attend a weekly resident meeting (2 hours)
* Assemble a church planting team
* Complete 36 weekly reading/media assignments
* Complete the “Church Planting Thresholds”
* Prepare a comprehensive plan for the new church
* Remain faithful, available and teachable throughout the process
* Attend elder and staff meetings

**Residency Stages**

The residency lasts a full 12 months and has four parts, lasting approximately three months each. They are as follows:

**Stage 1 - Assimilation**

During the assimilation phase residents will:

* Become a member of the church (if not already)
* Attempt to begin a Bible study in local-church area made up of individuals not currently connected with the church
* Work to form relationships with as many members and leaders in the church as possible
* Recruit a Pastoral Partner
* Research potential ministry fields and make key decisions such as location, church name, timeline, team size and budget requirements
* During the assimilation period, residents will spend approximately 75% of their time on matters related to the local church and 25% of their time on matters related to the new church

**Stage 2 - Planning**

During the planning phase residents will:

* Write a prospectus
* Produce a promotional film
* Create a website
* Set up giving options and bank accounts
* Create a wish list
* Complete a funding summary
* Schedule speaking engagements for the rest of the year
* Present vision to your local church
* Spend approximately 50% of their time on matters related to the local church and 50% of their time on matters related to the new church

**Stage 3 - Gathering**

During the Gathering phase residents will:

* Speak in other churches
* Participate in partnership opportunities
* Begin core team meetings
* Apply with state convention, associations and networks for affiliation
* Plan Preview Services and Informational meetings
* Spend approximately 25% of their time on matters related to the local church and 75% of their time on matters related to the new church

**Stage 4 - Transitioning**

During the Transition phase residents will:

* Write Theological Position Paper
* Complete ordination process
* Hold informational meetings and preview services
* Continue Support Gathering
* Gain acceptance from partners
* Secure housing on ministry field
* Spend approximately 75% of their time on matters related to the local church and 25% of their time on matters related to the new church

**Compensation Information**

This is standard compensation information. Situations vary from resident to resident.

* **NAMB Contribution:**
* **State Convention Contribution:**
* **Local Church Contribution:**
* **Network Contribution:**

**Annual Church Planters Retreat**

Each year the local church invites planters, with their families, to participate in a church planters retreat. The retreat takes place annually in the spring. The retreat is not required but strongly suggested.

**Residency Books**

* *Church Planting Thresholds* – Clint Clifton
* *Church Planting Primer* – Clint Clifton
* *Center Church* – Tim Keller
* *Good Christians. Good Husbands?* – Doreen Moore
* *Trellis and the Vine* – Tony Payne and Colin Marshall
* *The Christian Ministry* – Charles Bridges
* *The Gospel Blimp* – Joseph Bayly
* *Church Elders* – Jeramie Rinne
* *The Pastor’s Kid* – Barnabas Piper
* *Questioning Evangelism* – Randy Newman
* *When People are Big and God is Small* – Ed Welch
* *The Church Planting Wife* – Christine Hoover
* *Am I Called?* – Dave Harvey
* *A Display of God’s Glory* – Mark Dever

**Residency Weekly Meetings**

Each week, you will meet for two hours with a pastor or elder from the local church to work on areas of preparation for church planting. Though the residency is a full 52 weeks, your weekly assignments will last only through the spring. Please make sure you have completed the reading and media assignments when you arrive at the meeting.

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| Lesson #  | Subject | Reading | Media |
| 1 | Am I Called?  | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 1)“Confirming Your Call”
* ***Am I Called***, Harvey (Ch. 4) “Are You Godly”
 | P001,  |
| 2 | Am I Healthy Enough? | * ***When People are Big,*** (Ch. 8, 9) “Biblically Examine Your Felt Needs”, “Know Your Real needs”
* ***Interview with Ed Welch***, Clifton (R007)
* ***Ministry and Character***, Tim Keller (R012)
 | A006,  |
| 3 | How’s My Family? | * ***Am I Called?***, Harvey (Ch. 5) “How’s Your Home”
* ***The Christian Ministry,*** Bridges (Ch IX) “The Defect of Family Religion” pp.165-173
* ***Good Christians, Good Husbands?,*** (Ch. 1) “The Marriage of John Wesley”
 | P013,  |
| 4 | How Will My Family Be Affected?  | * ***PLANT***, Clifton (Ch. 9) – “Pastoral Health” (R029)
* ***Good Christians, Good Husbands?,*** (Ch. 2, 3) “The Marriage of George Whitefield”, “The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards”
* **The Pastor’s Kid**, Piper (Ch. 1)
 | P008, P009,  |
| 5 | Pastoral Partners | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 2)“Enlist a Partner and a Mentor”
* **The Pastors Kid**, Piper (Ch. 2, 3)
 | P003,  |
| 6 | Practical Aspects of Plural Leadership  | * ***Church Elders***, (Ch. 1-4)
 | P002,  |
| 7 | Painting the Big Picture | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 3)“Make a Comprehensive Plan”
* **Study Sample Prospectus Folder on Resource Disk**
 | P004,  |
| 8 | Stewarding Your Time | * 9 Tips to Manage Your Time in Ministry, Evans (R027)
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| 9 | Presenting Your Plan |  |  |
| 10 | Counting the Costs (Budgeting)  | * Basic Budgeting, Owen (R002)
 | V008, R001, R020,  |
| 11 | Sustainability and Planting Projector | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 4)“Gather Necessary Resources”
* ***Funding Church Planters,*** Coe (R010)
* ***The God Ask***, Shadrach (Ch. 16, 22, 23)
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| 12 | Individual Partnerships  | * ***Fundraising Boot Camp***, Hunter (R011)
* ***The God Ask***, Shadrach (Ch. 24, 25)
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| 13 | Church Partnerships  | * ***The God Ask***, Shadrach (Ch. 26) “You Need the Church”
 | P005, |
| 14 | Denominational Partnerships  | * No Reading
 | A001  |
| 15 | Service Roles & Job Descriptions  | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 5)“Assemble a Missionary Team”
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| 16 | Finding and Inviting Team Members | * ***Who to Empower and Who to Avoid***, Driscoll (R009)
 | P006,  |
| 17 | Building Relational Bridges  | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 6)“Befriend Your Community”
 |  |
| 18 | Good vs. Bad Outreach | * ***The Gospel Blimp***, (Ch. 1-12)
* ***The Problem with Gimmicks***, Cooke (R023)
 | A005 |
| 19 | Planning Your Outreach | * **Come Ready to Submit a 12 Month Outreach Plan**
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| 20 | Setting Healthy Patterns in Worship  | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 7)“Begin Worship Services”
* ***6 Biblical Principles for Corporate Worship*** (R021)
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| 21 | Preparing to Preach  | * **“Uncaging the Lion”,** Clifton – Critical Convictions Article
* **The Christian Ministry**, Bridges “The Composition of Sermons” (IV, II)
* ***Preaching and Preachers***, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Ch. 10) – “The Preparation of the Sermon”
* ***Saving Eutychus,*** Miller and Campbell “Let’s Build a Sermon”pp. 121-138
 | V002, A007, A008, A009,  |
| 22 | Preaching | * ***Preaching and Preachers***, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Ch. 5) – “The Act of Preaching”
* ***Between Two Worlds***, John Stott (Ch. 7 subsection) – “Arguments for Sincerity” pp. 267-272
* ***Between Two Worlds***, John Stott (Ch. 8 subsection) – “To Comfort and Disturb” pp. 305-314
 | V009, A010, A011, A012, A013 |
| 23 | Receiving Critique and Archiving  |  |  |
| 24 | Musical Worship  | * ***Center Church***, Keller, (Ch. 23) “Connecting People to God”
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| 25 | Organizational Architecture  | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 8)“Establish Biblical Polity”
* ***Center Church***, Keller, (Ch. 28) “The Church as an…”
 | P007,  |
| 26 | Elder Role  | * ***Church Elders***, (Ch. 5-8)
* ***How Pastor Mark Gives Authority,*** Leeman p. 28 (R018)
* ***Display of God’s Glory***, Dever (Ch. 2) (R006)
 | V006,  |
| 27 | Deacon Role  | * ***Display of God’s Glory***, Dever (Ch. 1) (R006)
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| 28 | Member Role  | * ***Display of God’s Glory***, Dever (Ch. 3, 4) (R006)
 | V004, |
| 29 | Leading Groups to Reach Individuals | * ***Thresholds,*** Clifton (Ch. 9)“Lead Your Church to Plant”
 | V001,  |
| 30 | Leading Individuals to Reach Groups  | * ***Why Plant Churches?,*** Keller (R004)
* **Trellis & Vine**, Payne/Marshal (Ch, 9-11)
 | P011,  |
| 31 | Leading Groups to Reach Individuals | * **Trellis & Vine**, Payne/Marshal (Ch. 4)
* ***The Waterer Watered***, Spurgeon (R022)
 | P010, A003 |
| 32 | Equipping People for Missional Living | * ***Unreached Peoples in Least Reached Places***, Payne (R008)
* ***Trellis & Vine***, Payne/Marshal (Ch. 9)
* ***Center Church***, Keller, (Ch. 21) “Connecting People…”
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| 33 | Prioritizing International Church Planting  |  |  |
| 34 | Personal Evangelism  | * ***Questioning Evangelism***, Newman (Ch. 1, 4, 8, 11)
 | V003, A005 |
| 35 | Personal Disciple Making  | * ***Trellis & Vine****,* Payne/Marshal (Ch. 1, 2)
* ***Center Church***, Keller, (Ch. 24) “Connecting People to God”
 | V005,  |
| 36 | Church Planters Retreat  | * ***No Reading this Week!***
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| 37 | Administration and Legality | * ***Taxation of Ministers*** (R013)
* ***PLANT***, (Ch. 3) – “Administration” (R030)
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| 38 | Ministerial Failure  | * ***Planter Resignation Email*** (R015)
* ***Why Church Plant’s Fail*** (R016)
* ***Confessions of a Failed Planter*** (R017)
* ***Why Pastors Quit*** (R024)
* **Pastoral Pressures**, Rainer (R025)
* **Training for Fallen Pastors** (R026)
* **Why I’m No Longer a Church Planter** (R027)
* **Watch Vimeo -** [**http://vimeo.com/49489781**](http://vimeo.com/49489781)
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| 39 | Wrap Up  | * Review Materials and Q&A
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| 40 | Wrap Up  | * Review Materials and Q&A
 |  |

**Ordination/Commissioning Service:**

If all goes according to plan, the local church will hold an ordination/commissioning service after requirements have been completed and you have been approved to serve. You should plan to invite friends, family and team members to attend this service.