



DISCERNMENT AND PLANNING PROPOSAL FOR EMERGING CHURCHES

Metropolitan Community Churches makes no commitment to authorize the development of a new church until the Discernment and Planning Proposal is approved. Therefore, until approval is received, please do NOT announce to anyone that MCC is starting a new church in the location you are considering!

Please conduct the appropriate research that will allow you to respond fully to each of the following categories with complete answers to questions:

Demographic

Carefully and fully answer the following questions. The best responses utilize resources such as government websites, reports from organizations and media outlets, and personal experience. Please cite sources with links, or names of reports or agencies. There is no right or wrong answers, only data for consideration. The purpose of this section is to detail the specific geographical area you are considering for beginning an Emerging Church:

- 1 What is the population of the city or metropolitan area that you are considering?
- 2 What are the economic, educational, race/ethnic, and age demographics of the area you are considering?
- 3 Has the population been growing or declining over the past ten (10) years?
- 4 What are the economic trends of the area you are considering?
- 5 What is the political climate (describe types of political parties, activism, or a lack of political engagement) of the area you are considering?

Openness of the Area to MCC

1. What have you learned about the communities (LGBTQ, Progressive, Spiritual, etc) in the area you are considering? (Specific to the city or metropolitan area, size, age, and any recent shifts, including equality issues, allies, and organizations)
2. What is the religious climate of the area you are considering? Please provide names for types of congregations or religious traditions and the overall number of churches in the area.
3. Which local organizations and/or churches are willing to support the creation of an MCC in this city? In what ways would they support the effort for the emerging church?



4. Why is there a need for a ministry in this area? Also note if there has ever been an MCC in the area. If so, please provide a brief history if available.
5. What makes you believe that this community will support an emerging church in the community? Are you aware of other people who are willing to participate with you in creating a new church? If so, please mention their names and potential roles.

Philosophy of Ministry: *Please describe the kind of ministry you want to develop and who God is calling you to reach through that ministry.*

- 1 **Vision:** Consider the following Vision of MCC:
Metropolitan Community Church is compelled by an unfinished calling and a prophetic destiny. We are a global movement of spiritually and sexually diverse people who are fully awake to God's enduring love. Following the example of Jesus and empowered by the Spirit, we seek to build leading-edge church communities that demand, proclaim, and do justice in the world.
What is the vision, or aim, for this specific Emerging Church?
- 2 **Basic Beliefs:** In MCC, we strive to proclaim a spirituality that is liberating and sufficiently profound to address the issues of our chaotic and complicated world. We live out our belief that in the margins we are blessed and we are offering multiple ways for people to access our message of liberation and inclusion. For this emerging church, how do you summarize the truly essential beliefs of the new church? What are the principles, or affirmations, that people spontaneously turn to when confronted by life's events? Would people in the church be able to hold different, and even contradictory views, about a specific religious doctrine or dogma, and still live together in mutual respect?
- 3 **Values:** The four core values of MCC are Inclusion, Community, Spiritual Transformation, and Social Action. In what ways will this new church reflect these values?
- 4 **Mission:** Consider the call for the Emerging Church. Reflect upon the Mission of MCC to **Be MCC: Transforming ourselves as we transform the world.** Metropolitan Community Church proclaims and practices a spirituality that is anchored in the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ and confronts the issues of our volatile, uncertain, and complex world. We are called to develop and equip leaders, congregations, and ministries that foster spiritual growth, do the work of justice, act with compassion, and integrate sexuality and spirituality. We will do this through offering high-value training, local church support and resourcing, cutting edge theological exploration, and expanding partnerships.



Who is the ministry called to serve? Realizing the diversity of each community, who are the people this Emerging Church wishes to reach? Be clear and specific so that YOU can know what to pray for and what to plan for in this ministry.

Leader of the Emerging Ministry:

Name

Mailing address: _____
Home telephone: _____
Work telephone: _____
Cellular telephone: _____
Email address: _____

The Ministry Leader MUST be authorized by MCC. If the Ministry Leader is not an MCC clergy person and if the emerging ministry is to become a “church,” the Ministry Leader may be required to enter the pastoral leadership training program that is offered by MCC. The term-of-office of the Ministry Leader is one year.

The Ministry Leader should submit a full professional resume with the completed Discernment and Planning Proposal.

Proposed Name for the Emerging Ministry (this can change):

Name

Please return the completed Discernment and Planning Proposal to:

Rev. Rachelle Brown, Emerging Church Specialist
revrachellebrown@mccchurch.net
Fax: +1-310-388-1252