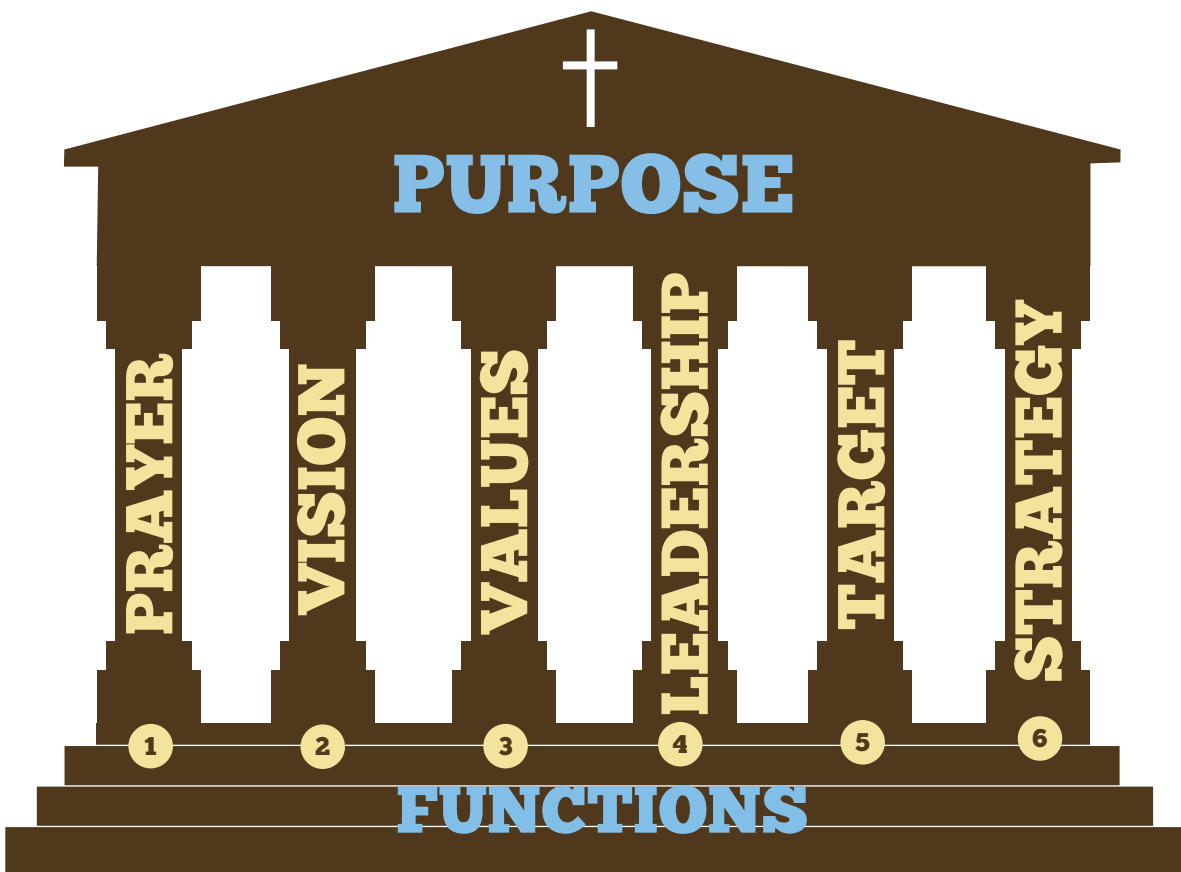


Basic Theology and Philosophy of Church Planting for Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association



Every Church has the same purpose:
to Glorify God

Every Church has the same functions:
to fulfill the Great Commission & to live out the Great Commandments

BUT each is unique in the answer
it has to six critical questions:

1. Who is in Charge?

If God is, PRAYER is imperative!

2. What does God want us to be?

His VISION

3. What does God want us to do?

VALUES

4. Who is God sending with us?

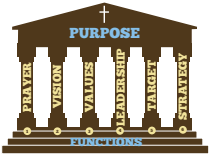
LEADERSHIP TEAM

5. Who does God want us to reach?

TARGET

6. How & When does God want us to do it?

STRATEGY



Although “the Church as a building” is an appropriate Biblical image with Christ as the chief cornerstone, we must not forget other Biblical images such as the Church as a body and as the bride of Christ. We use the symbol of a building with some fear and trepidation knowing that in our culture the Church is too often equated with the building where it meets.

What is a CHURCH?

The Baptist Faith and Message defines Church as follows:

A New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the Church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the Church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

- Matthew 16:15-19 • Matthew 18:15-20 • Acts 2:41-42,47 • Acts 5:11-14 • Acts 6:3-6 • Acts 13:1-3
- Acts 14:23 • Acts 27 • Acts 15:1-30 • Acts 16:5 • Acts 20:28 • Romans 1:7 • 1 Corinthians 1:2
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 • 1 Corinthians 5:4-5 • 1 Corinthians 7:17 • 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 • 1 Corinthians 12
- Ephesians 1:22-23 • Ephesians 2:19-22 • Ephesians 3:8-11 • Ephesians 21 • Ephesians 5:22-32
- Philippians 1:1 • Colossians 1:18 • 1 Timothy 2:9-14 • 1 Timothy 3:1-15 • 1 Timothy 4:14
- Hebrews 11:39-40 • 1 Peter 5:1-4 • Revelation 2-3 • Revelation 21:2-3

KANSAS NEBRASKA BAPTIST CONVENTION

The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists defines a Church as:

“a group of people who meet regularly for bible study, worship, and witness and see themselves as an ongoing fellowship of believers.”

EASTERN NEBRASKA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

As Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association assists in the area of Church planting we do so with the above understanding of the uniqueness of every Church and the aforementioned definitions of Church. In simplified form we strive to assist Churches to fulfill the following four distinctives of an independent autonomous Church:

1. Incarnational

[Principle of Self-Sacrificing] Church members must emulate God’s willingness to step away from the realms of glory to walk among men—Jesus was God in the flesh. The Church must exist more for those who are yet to be redeemed than it does for its members.

2. Empowering

[Principle of Self-Supporting] Church Planting efforts must provide a hand up not a hand out. Enabling a welfare, self-defeated, or persecuted mentality to continue or creating it in the target group must be avoided at all costs.

3. Indigenous

[Principle of Self-Determining] The Church must to raise up leaders from the harvest for the harvest using a relational, reproducible, accountable discipleship process.

4. Incubating

[Principle of Self-Replicating] We strive to start new Churches in a manner that is reproducible by constantly asking “Is this Biblical or cultural?” and “Will those I am equipping have the resources, knowledge, and skill to reproduce what I am doing?”