



Benchmarks for the Church Planting Process

Strategic Geographical Region

A geographic region (rural, urban, suburban or collegiate) is strategically identified.

Core Team

Working toward a group of at least 20 adults, led by a vetted and gifted church planting pastor, begin meeting in the identified region for bible study, prayer, worship, evangelism and discipleship. The team and planting pastor receive coaching from an approved church plant coach. (e.g. Always Forward)

Church Plant

Working toward a group of at least 40 adults, led by the planting pastor and lay committee / vestry, begin meeting for regular, weekly, Anglican worship of Word and Sacrament.

Mission Fellowship

The Church Plant begins to show signs of becoming self-sustaining in finances and governance (typically 3-7-years). The leadership can apply for Mission Fellowship status in the Diocese ([Canon XVIII](#)). A Mission Fellowship has a Vestry which works to incorporate and file its Charter, develop Bylaws, prepare other materials for admission as a Congregation, and begin to contribute their Godly Share.

Congregation

The Mission Fellowship reaches a size which produces financial stability and self-governance, and it may request admission into union with Convention ([Canon XVII](#)). A Congregation in Full Union has Articles of Association (or Charter and Bylaws), compensates their Clergy, has a Vestry of at least five persons, and contributes their Godly Share to the Diocese.