

Keen on Church Planting? Talk to us.



We are keen to plant churches across NSW
We have finances to support the right people
We have a flexible operating structure
We can provide strong operational support

resourcing the church
for spiritual vitality

Keen to plant

The Ministry and Mission Committee is the arm of the Presbyterian Church in NSW that facilitates church planting. Our network of over 300 churches stretches from the coast to Balranald, Condobolin, Wee Waa and Moree. We want to expand that. We also have over 150 churches in the greater metropolitan area of Sydney. We want to expand that, too. We see major priorities in Windsor, Fairfield, Western Newcastle and Bankstown not to mention the massive growth areas in the north west and south west of Sydney. In order to see more churches planted, we commissioned a major report into Australian and overseas literature on church planting during 2008. Now we are implementing its recommendations. We have improved our understanding of church planting and are now much better placed to assess opportunities and promote effective outcomes while providing better support to church planting personnel.

Our most recent work, at Kogarah in the south of Sydney, is being greatly blessed by God.

Financial resources

For the right people in the right places with the right plan, we have significant resources to promote church planting.

We believe that the church exists for Jesus and that he has promised to build it. We are therefore committed to grow his kingdom by church planting and church revitalisation. Where it is possible for existing church leadership to pursue the revitalisation of a church, we work with them and resource them. Where revitalisation is not possible, we work with the leadership to introduce new personnel with the knowledge, support, passions and abilities to take the church where it needs to go in obedience to Jesus. Where there is no existing church, we facilitate and resource entirely new works.

Whatever mechanism is adopted, we are committed to providing financial, personal and relational support appropriately. At this stage, our support can not extend to the purchase of property. That is beyond our present capacity, but the Presbyterian Property Trust is working with us to explore how this possibility might be made a reality in the future.

Flexibility

Presbyterian churches are not constrained by parish boundaries. Congregations are regulated by regional bodies (called presbyteries). Provided the relevant presbytery agrees, there is liberty to start new congregations on a geographic or relational basis without having to worry about territorial disputes.

Church planting can be done in many different ways. Sometimes church planters can work in partnership with an existing congregation, using existing resources or even drawing key personnel from that congregation. This provides great administrative support and a ready-made prayer base. At other times, church planters work separately from any other church although the Presbytery will always provide one of its experienced ministers to support and supervise the work. Whether a church plant is partnered or stands alone, we enjoy great flexibility to determine the strategy and model that will be pursued.

Flexibility exists in relation to the model to be implemented, as well as the strategy to be adopted. "Model" is used here to refer to the type of church to be planted – contemporary or conservative, formal or informal, etc. "Strategy" is used to refer to the methods to be used to plant the church. Available strategies

fall within the following range: branching, colonizing, pioneering, transplanting and repotting. The best way to plant a particular church will depend on the type of church envisaged, and the operational context.

We can help you think through these issues.

Operational Support

Church planting is hard work. Key personnel need support. We aim to provide that initially by our assessment process. Relationships forged there lead into our mentoring network. In addition, our office staff are always available for advice and encouragement, and our prayer base is steadily developing.

We also have ready access to the experience and wisdom of key leaders of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Mars Hill churches.

Want to know more?

Email Bruce at bmeller@pcnsw.org.au or phone (02) 9690 9318.