



## **Praetorian Project Church Planting Pipeline**

Adopted Nov 2018

The efforts of the Praetorian Project are coordinated but the method is ultimately local; Churches plant churches. In order to plant with the Praetorian Project a church planter must first be a member of a Pillar Church for a minimum of one year and be sent and overseen by that local sending church. Throughout the process the Praetorian Project lends support to planting teams by coordinating prayer, fundraising, training, and mentoring relationships.

### **In order to become a church planter candidate you must meet the following requirements:**

- 1. Plan to join a Praetorian Project church or church plant.* Church membership is the baseline starting point for new church planters in the Praetorian Project. All of our church planters will have spent at least a year as a member of one of our existing churches for training and assimilation. Becoming a church planter candidate requires you to have an agreed upon timeline with your sending church for fulfilling the year of training. Previous to joining one of the churches all discussions about further timelines and plans are purely theoretical.
- 2. Understand and agree to the Praetorian Project guidelines with your sending church Elders.* A church planter candidate will take time to thoroughly understand and review the Praetorian Project Guidelines with the leadership of their local church. If they are able to work in agreement with the guidelines they should proceed to creating a development plan. If there are areas where they are in disagreement, there should be aspects of the development plan that address the area of leadership or doctrine concerned.
- 3. Complete one of the approved third party assessments (NAMB or ACTS 29).* In preparation for development each potential church planter candidate will complete a third party assessment to aid the sending church in creating a development plan.
- 4. Create a development plan with your potential sending church Elders and submit it to the Praetorian Project New Planter Review Team.* A church planter candidate will have a developed plan that has been created by their local church Elders. The plan should address areas of development needed, study required, experiences that need to be obtained, and a reasonable timeline for completion. The timeline should account for accomplishing the tasks

required for approval as a church planter below, as well as adequate time for the local church to be able to confidently affirm the planter for the work.

*5. Review your development plan with a member of the Church Planter review team for approval.* Prior to becoming a church planter candidate, the completion of the above requirements will be reviewed and approved by a member of the Praetorian Project Review Team outside of their local church.

**Goal:** A church planter candidate has a clear plan for working toward planting a Praetorian Project church that has been developed with the Pillar Church that will act as their sending church and approved by a New Planter Review Team Member.

**In order to become a Praetorian Project church planter you must meet the following requirements:**

*1. Demonstrate that you have been a member of a Pillar Church for at least 1 year.* An approved church planter will spend a year as member in an existing Pillar Church. They will actively participate in the leadership discussions and practical ministry leadership of the church during the year in preparation for their role as a church planter.

*2. Pass one of the approved third party church planting assessments. (NAMB or ACTS 29).* An approved church planter will be able to demonstrate their readiness for church planting by passing a church planter assessment lead by a group of objective assessors. The assessment process will provide feedback for the sending church that will be used in further preparing and approving the church planter.

*3. Receive the full recommendation of your sending church.* An approved church planter will have the confident recommendation of the Elders of their sending church. The recommendation should include a clear affirmation that the planter meets the biblical qualifications of Eldership and would be able to serve as an Elder in the sending church if they remained there. If the candidate has not previously been ordained their sending church should conduct and complete a formal ordination process with the candidate.

*4. Complete the Praetorian Project standardized training.* An approved church planter will have completed a standardized training curriculum provided by the Praetorian Project alongside the development plan of their sending church.

*5. Sign the Praetorian Project church planting agreement.* An approved church planter will agree to work in a manner that upholds the Praetorian Project guidelines.

6. *Review the completion of the requirements before the Praetorian Project new planter review team.* An approved church planter will undergo a review and final interview with a New Planter Review Team. The review team will examine whether the candidate has completed all the requirements and is approved by the project to take on an active role planting a church in the Praetorian Project.

**Goal:** An approved church planter can actively begin the work of church planting under the authority of a Praetorian Project sending church. The church will remain under the authority of the sending church until it becomes a Praetorian Project member church. Until the new church meets the requirements of a member church outlined below, it will remain under the designation Praetorian Project Church Plant.

**In order to become a Praetorian Project member church your church must meet the following requirements:**

1. *Develop weekly worship gatherings and a regular practice of the ordinances.* A member church will have established a healthy pattern of weekly worship gatherings for their local church. The weekly gatherings should include the regular preaching and teaching of the Scriptures and participation in the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

2. *Adopt and institute founding documents.* A member church will have officially adopt and institute the necessary documents for the establishment of the church as an autonomous organization. The founding documents should include at least a Statement of Beliefs, a Constitution and Membership Agreement/Covenant.

3. *Establish plural eldership.* A member church will have no less than 2 Elders serving together in the Pastoral leadership of the church and have clear plan for developing additional elders.

4. *Form a system for meaningful church membership.* A member church will have clear practice of church membership that is in concert with the practices outlined in the Praetorian Project guidelines.

5. *Provide a plan for financial sustainability and independence.* A member church will be able to demonstrate a viable plan for financial sustainability and have reached a threshold of financial independence where 75% of the money in its sustainability plan is coming from general offerings of the church itself.

6. *Commit to a church multiplication plan.* A member church will have a clear and reviewable plan for actively developing potential church planters and demonstrate a commitment to continue to start other new churches.

*7. Review the completion of the requirements before the Praetorian Project new planter review team.* Prior to becoming a member church a church plant will undergo a review and final interview with the New Planter Review Team. The review team will confirm whether the church plant has established all of the required elements in preparation for the change of status.

**Goal:** A member church has moved from church plant status to member church status by developing mature practices in a number of areas that allow it to function with a pattern of healthy autonomy. It is no longer under the authority of the sending church and is gaining strength that allows it to contribute to the project with increased stability and leadership.

**In order to remain a Praetorian Project member church you must meet the following requirements:**

- 1. Continue to meet the six requirements for Praetorian Project Member Churches listed above.* The six requirements above are not one-time achievements but lay out a pattern of function and leadership that is in keeping with the Praetorian Project guidelines. Member churches are expected to set the pattern in the project and provide ongoing models that will be helpful to current and future planters.
- 2. Prioritize personal involvement in Praetorian Project gatherings.* We are project that has thrived on relational strength. The leadership of member churches must continue to make the commitment to gathering together for our meetings and participate in providing solutions for retreats.
- 3. Give a minimum of 1% of your church's unrestricted giving to the Praetorian Project fund.* As the project continues to grow there will be a need for providing financial support to host training events, vision trips, and to provide for the basic administrative costs associated with the work. (currently this fund does not exist)
- 4. Establish and maintain relationship with a personal coach or mentor.* Each Pastor will benefit from a coach or mentor who will consistently shepherd you into gospel-shaped spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational health. Our stewardship of these key areas will profoundly impact the health of our families, churches, and network, and will lead to greater longevity and personal contribution in gospel ministry.