The method of planting Pillar Churches within the Praetorian Project is executed locally- churches plant churches. However, throughout the process the Praetorian Project represents the common interest of the member churches in maintaining a consistent commitment to our agreed upon expectations.

**In order to become a Praetorian Project Church Planter you must meet the following requirements:**

*1. Join a Praetorian Project church or church plant.* Church membership is the starting point for new church planters in the Praetorian Project. All of our church planters will have spent at least one year as a member of one of our existing churches for training and assimilation. Becoming a church planter requires you to have an agreed upon timeline with your sending church for fulfilling the year of training. Prior 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, Founding Documents, and this Pipeline with your sending church Elders and a member of The Praetorian Project Board.* You will take time to thoroughly understand and review these documents with the leadership of your sending church. If you cannot agree to working within the construct of these documents, you will want to make another plan with your sending church that doesn’t involve planting a Pillar Church in the Praetorian Project.

*3. Plan to complete one of the approved third-party assessments (Send Network or Acts 29).* This assessment will aid you, your sending church, and the Praetorian Project pastors in creating your development plan and approving you for work in the project.

*4. Create a development plan with your potential sending church elders and submit it to the Praetorian Project Board.*  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 you for the work.

*5. Review your development plan with the Praetorian Project Board for approval.* Prior to becoming a church planter and publicly promoting that you are planting a Praetorian Project Church, you and your sending church must have approval from the Board.

**Endstate:** A church planter has a clear plan for working toward planting a Praetorian Project church that has been developed with the sending church and approved by the Board.

Upon approval from the Praetorian Project board, the church planter may begin promoting their church planting work for the sake of fundraising, core development, and initial missionary engagement.

**In order to become a Praetorian Project Church Plant you must meet the following requirements:**

*1. Demonstrate that you have a church planting partner.* The partner(s) is/are your first fellow pastor(s)/elder(s) when you constitute as a church. The partner(s) will have the full endorsement of the sending church.

*2. Demonstrate that you have been a member of a Pillar Church for at least 1 year.* This requirement only exists for one of the planting pastors/elders.

*3. Complete one of the approved third-party church planting assessments. (NAMB or ACTS 29).*  The assessment process will provide feedback for the planter and the sending church that will be used in further preparing and approving the church plant. The Praetorian Project member church pastors will also have access to the assessment results and will consider these results prior to the affirmation of the planting team. The requirement for assessment only exists for one of the planting pastors/elders.

*4. Receive the full recommendation of your sending church including ordination.* An approved church planter will have the confident recommendation of their sending church. The recommendation should include a clear affirmation that the planter meets the biblical qualifications of pastors/elders (1 Tim 3, Titus 1, 1 Peter 5, etc) and would be able to serve as a pastor/elder in the sending church if they remained there. If the candidate has not previously been ordained, the sending church will complete a formal ordination process with the candidate.

*5. Affirm the Praetorian Project Essential Commitments Document.* [*http://praetorianproject.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2023/03/Essential-Commitments.docx*](http://praetorianproject.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2023/03/Essential-Commitments.docx)

*6. Receive Approval from the Member Churches of The Praetorian Project.* In a duly called meeting of the Praetorian Project, your sending church will make a proposal to approve your planting team to publicly gather, establish membership, and constitute as a Praetorian Project Church Plant.

**Endstate:** An approved church planting team can actively begin the work of gathering a church under the authority of a Praetorian Project sending church. The church plant 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 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, worship through song, and participation in the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

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

*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 in order to maintain a plurality.

*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 new churches.

*7. Receive Approval from the Member Churches of The Praetorian Project.* In a duly called meeting of the Praetorian Project, you and your sending church will make a proposal to approve your church plant to become a Praetorian Project Member Church. Your proposal is to be sent to the board in writing prior to the meeting so that it may be disseminated as a “read ahead” for the member churches.

**Endstate:** 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 has the full responsibilities and privileges of membership as outlined by the Praetorian Project by-laws.

**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 and maintain all elements of the Essential Commitments Document.* 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 church planters.

*2. Prioritize personal involvement in Praetorian Project gatherings.* We are a project that has thrived on relational strength. The leadership of member churches must continue to make the commitment to gather together.

*3. Give a minimum of 1% of your church’s unrestricted giving to the Praetorian Project general fund.* As the project continues to grow there is a need for providing financial support to host training events, vision trips, and to provide for the basic administrative costs associated with the work.