

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FORM

Proposal Date:

SECTION ONE- PLANTER INFORMATION

Ministry Leader's Name:

Ministry Leader's Home Address:

Please upload a current photo of yourself. This photo may be shared on the Resonate website and other Resonate materials. We will not give it to any third party affiliates.

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Spouse's Name, if applicable:

Ministry Leader's Ethnicity:

Ministry Leader's Church Membership: (name, city, and denomination of church)

Ministry Leader's ordination status: (check one)

Ordained as a Minister of Word in the CRC

Ordained as a Commissioned Pastor in the CRC

Ordained in another denomination: _____

Seeking ordination as Minister of Word in Classis _____; expected exam date: _____

Seeking ordination as Commissioned Pastor in Classis _____; expected exam date:

None of the above

Please select the assessments that the church planter has completed.

Church Planter Candidate Assessment (CPCA)

Initial Screening Assessment (ISA)

Full Church Planter Profile

Behavioral Interview

Assessment Center

APEST

Grip-Birkman

SECTION TWO- CHURCH PLANT INFORMATION

Ministry Name:

Is this temporary or permanent?

Church Mailing Address:

Church Meeting Address (choose the main address, if meeting in multiple locations):

Public Worship Gathering Time (if applicable):

Church Website:

Church Email Address:

Church Phone Number:

Do you have paid staff, besides the planter? (If so, list name, email address, and title)

Administrative Assistant

Worship Leader

Youth

Other:

Is the church plant a multi-site? Yes No

Classis:

Parent (Calling) Church:

Parent Church Address:

Parent Church Phone Number:

Parent Church Contact Person:

Parent Church Contact Person's Email Address:

SECTION THREE- VISION FOR THE CHURCH PLANT

Share with us the vision for this new church, as if you had 2-3 minutes to educate and inspire a potential partner to join you in what you believe God is calling you to do. Consider the following: what is the need for this new church? Who is the intended audience? What doors have already opened for you? What model will the church use? What will its regular practices be? What will its values be? What do you hope the church will look like in 5 years? (approx. 300- 500 words)

Resonate Global Mission seeks to partner with churches that embody the following values. Please provide one sentence for each value, explaining how your church will live it out:

- Gospel-Centered (*churches share the good news that God is reconciling the world to himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ*):

- Kingdom-Focused (*as Gospel-centered people, churches are joining in the redemptive work that God is doing in the world*) :

- Discipleship Multiplication (*churches focus on developing personal spiritual growth in individuals and their relationship with God*):

- Comprehensive Diversity (*diversity of all kinds is reflected in all areas of the church*):
-
- Sustainability (*churches are supported in a way that creates healthy sustainability for their unique situation*):
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Describe the location of this church plant in 1-3 words (urban? rural?):

Describe the intended ethnicity of this church plant in 1-3 words:

Have you had a demographic study done on this area? Yes No

If not, we will contact you regarding a demographic study for the area.

Provide a timeline of the next 12-18 months with 5-6 key benchmarks you're aiming for along the way, in agreement with your partnership team. (For an example and a guide to developing this benchmarks, click here.)

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Please attach your anticipated budget. (For guidelines, please click here.)

SECTION FOUR- PARTNERSHIP TEAM

A partnership team provides local support and oversight for the church plant in the local context. (Note: this is not the same as a church plant's core leadership team.) They meet monthly for accountability, reviewing the church plant's benchmarks and budget, and to encourage and support the planter. The partners also agree to support the plant in various ways, which may include things such as grants, administrative support, prayer, tangible goods, volunteers, etc.

The partnership team includes representatives from supporting partners, including a Resonate Global Mission representative as an *ex officio* member of the team. At least one partner representative must be from the parent church, and at least one partner representative must be from the classis.

Please use the following sections to note your parent church partner, your classis partner, and any other partners.

Name of representative person from parent (calling) organization:

Email: _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

Name of representative person from the classis: _____

Email: _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Representing (classis/church/other name): _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Representing (classis/church/other name): _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

(see Appendix C to add additional team members)

SECTION FIVE- RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION AS A PARTNER

Resonate seeks to come alongside, strengthen, and build capacity in church plants. As a partner, Resonate provides support in the following ways:

Coaching

- We have trained coaches specifically for church planting, and these names can be provided to you by a Resonate representative. Research has shown that church planters who meet regularly with a coach are proven to have higher long-term success.
- Coaching is available to all planters; planters receiving more than \$10,000 per year from Resonate *must* have a coach. You may apply for a coaching grant (see below).

Opting out of coaching

To be eligible for more than \$10,000 in Resonate grants per year, you must have a coach and provide their information below. If you do not plan on applying for more than \$10,000 per year, you may choose to check the box below. In this case, you do not need to have a coach or provide their information – simply write NA in the following fields.

- I will not be eligible to apply for more than \$10,000 per year in grants from Resonate.*

Coach's Name: _____

Coach's Email Address: _____

Training

- A plan for foundational church plant training is approved by your Partnership Team including a Resonate representative, and includes attending Cultivate Church Planter Fellowship.
- We also provide church planters with assistance for ongoing, continuing education. Options for this include conferences, classes, books, learning communities, etc. To apply for this grant, see below.

Dates you attended/will attend Cultivate Church Planter Fellowship: _____

Prayer

- We pray for our church planters on a regular basis. Often these requests come from the church planter's newsletter. We encourage you to include Resonate on your newsletter mailing list: resonateletters@crcna.org.

Official Status for Church Plants in the United States

- Partnering with Resonate gives new church plants some legal status. Every CRC church, both emerging and established, is covered under the denomination's IRS determination letter that

confirms that we and our churches are charities (501c3) and therefore exempt from tax. An official certificate is available to planters by contacting John Bolt (jbolt@crcna.org).

- Planters will also want to work on obtaining an Employee Identification Number and Articles of Incorporation. John Bolt and Chris Cok (ccok@crcna.org) are willing to provide direction and assistance for this.
- Resonate recommends that church plants receive donations through their parent church or classis.

Official Status for Church Plants in Canada

- The process for a church plant to receive its own non-profit charitable status takes about 6 months after the application is submitted to the Canadian Revenue Service. Until then, a local CRC congregation agrees to serve as the 'calling church,' and an arrangement is made in which charitable receipts for the emerging ministry are issued through this local congregation.
- Assistance in drawing up bylaws needed for obtaining such charity status can be obtained by connecting with Resonate regional staff.
- When the emerging congregation has matured to a stage such that it is ready to apply for Incorporation, assistance in drawing up the Articles of Incorporation can be found by emailing your regional mission leader and Terry Veldboom (tveldboom@crcna.org) at the denominational offices in Burlington.
- If an emerging ministry has not received its official charitable status, they are encouraged to process donations through their calling church or classis.

Receiving certain donations through Resonate

If a church plant in the US has donors in Canada, or vice versa, Resonate is willing to accept funds from these donors on behalf of the church plant, thereby providing the donor with a tax-exempt option. Resonate will assess a 6.25% support services allocation fee on all support received. If you think this may be the case for you, please contact a Resonate representative.

Church Planting Grants

Resonate provides grants to support the health, spiritual formation, and contextual engagement of approved partner ministries.

The grant period lasts until organization, with a maximum of 8 years. The total grant amount will be capped at \$75,000 per church plant, with an annual maximum of \$25,000. Each year, starting one year after the approval date of a church plant's partnership agreement, an annual report must be submitted in order to remain eligible for grants in the following year.

The following grants may be available upon approval of this partnership agreement:

- **Coaching Grant**

We provide grants for those seeking qualified coaching for guidance in the process of developing new ministries. A qualified coach is one who has received training from an established coaching organization such as Gravity Leadership, Thresholds Community, Cygnus Services, or C2C Network.

- **Fundraising Training Grant**

We provide grants for those seeking qualified training and/or coaching in raising funds for new mission endeavors. This grant helps cover the cost of receiving associated training, materials, etc.

- **Apprenticeship Grant for Emerging Leaders**

We provide matching grants for individuals who have demonstrated leadership potential within a local ministry setting. This grant may be used to fund 6-12 month apprenticeships for raising up and training new ministry leaders.

- **Church Planter Grant**

We encourage church plants to seek local support for the costs of a church planter's salary and basic church expenses. However, in some cases, a planter will need additional assistance in the first year as he/she raises up a core group for internal giving and establishes a fundraising plan.

- **Community Engagement Experiment Grant**

We encourage ministry leaders to find new ways to connect with their community and experiment with new ways to engage with their local context. Grant money may not be used for staffing.

- **Intercultural Partnership Grant**

We encourage ministry leaders to connect with their neighbors of differing faiths, heritages, and ethnicities. Grant money may not be used for staffing.

- **Equipment/Facility Grant**

These grants help meet the capital start-up costs of strategic equipment (non-disposable items) such as equipment, coffee pots, children's ministry curriculum, block party equipment, etc.

- **Ministry Leader Health and Development Grant**

We encourage ministry leaders to be intentional in their spiritual, physical and emotional health and development. This may include continuing education, spiritual retreats, counseling, marriage retreats, attending conferences, reading books, etc. with the use of this grant.

- **Ministry Spouse Health and Development Grant**

We encourage ministry leaders' spouses to be intentional in their spiritual, physical and emotional health and development. This may include continuing education, spiritual retreats, counseling, marriage retreats, attending conferences, reading books, etc. with the use of this grant.

SECTION SIX- THE CHURCH PLANT AS A PARTNER

The new church exercises primary responsibility for its own spiritual vitality, self-expression, self-governance, self-support, self-reproduction and ministry effectiveness. It does so in keeping with its approved vision and strategy, as developed in consultation with its ministry partners.

The new church agrees to the following commitments by checking each box:

Accountability

The church planter will ordinarily meet with the partnership team monthly. At each meeting the planter will provide a ministry update, a progress report about benchmark goals, and a current financial statement. Minutes of these meetings should be sent to the Resonate representative, as an *ex officio* member of the partnership team.

The church planter and partnership team will submit a yearly report to the bi-national Resonate agency, which will include a ministry update and financial statement. This report is necessary in order to apply for grants the following year.

The church plant will identify and recruit a treasurer (not the planter) to care for and administer the church plant funds. In many cases, a treasurer from the parent church is able to help with training and assisting this person.

○ Name and email address of treasurer: _____

I agree.

Communication

The planter will develop ways to communicate with its supporting partners on a regular basis.

The planter will keep its supporting partners informed of any change in status (information changes like address, phone, etc.).

I agree.

Denominational Participation

The planter will attend classis meetings, thereby providing a missional voice in important, decision-making conversations.

The planter is encouraged to participate on a classical committee to which they are appointed and which is hopefully of interest to them.

I agree.

Giving Back

The church plant will give a portion of their congregational offerings to Kingdom causes outside of itself. We strongly encourage the church to consider how they can invest in future missional growth, with at least 5% going toward CRC ministries. Examples include: church planting funds at your local classis, cluster, Resonate Global Mission, etc.

We have included in our budget ____% of our congregational offerings to Kingdom causes, to be distributed in the following way: _____.

I agree.

Planter Health and Wholeness

The planter will seek out ways to maintain their spiritual, physical, and relational health in the midst of this demanding role, and they will share this plan with the partnership team.

A variety of locally-based clusters and networks of missional leaders are available. A Resonate representative can connect you to one in your area, or you may want to create a new one (it does not have to be limited to CRC participants). Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grants may be of help to you (<https://www.crcna.org/SPE/pastor-peer-learning-grants>).

Which locally-based group of leaders are you part of? How often do you meet?

I agree.

Future Multiplication

Based on the church plant model, what is the vision for reproduction for this new plant?

Is there any other information you'd like to share with us?

Appendix A - Creating Benchmarks for a Church Plant

Benchmarks are a way to measure progress. Church planting, like most of ministry, is an endeavor that is never completed, and so benchmarks provide the planter and the partnership team with a common direction and opportunities for accomplishment along the way.

Benchmarks are also a way to note areas that need improvement. These agreed-upon goals help the partners know if the church plant is on track to achieve its desired outcome in the time frame given.

A respected CRC church planting coach noted that his ability to coach a planter is violated when benchmarks are inserted later in the process. He recommends that benchmarks are created and shared by the partnership team from the beginning.

A good benchmark is SMART:

Specific- it states exactly what you want to achieve

Measurable- it establishes clear definitions to help you measure if you're reaching your goal

Achievable- it creates the opportunity to succeed by setting goals that can actually be accomplished

Results-focused- it is described using action verbs as if the goal was already accomplished

Time-bound- it sets a clear deadline based on how much time the task will take to complete

The partnership team should agree on 5-6 benchmarks for the upcoming year of the church plant. These are the major milestones; the planter may wish to set other benchmarks along the way in order to achieve these goals.

Coaching questions the planter and partnership team may want to consider when developing these benchmarks:

- Where do you see God working and how can you join Him in that?
- Who currently comprises your leadership or core team? What are your hopes for what this team will look like a year from now?
- Who are the lost that God is calling you to reach?
- How will you know if people are growing in their relationship with God?
- How will you reach the fundraising line item in your budget?
- How will worship play a role in your church a year from now? What do you have to do to prepare for that vision?
- What is God shaping and molding in the church planter, and how can he or she grow as a leader?
- What does it look like to be connected to this church in a meaningful way? How many people are connected now, and how many do you hope will be connected a year from now?

Appendix B - Creating a Budget for a Church Plant

This resource is intended to help you create a church plant budget, shaped around a posture of hospitality and a purpose of inviting people to participate in God's kingdom.

The categories below are intended as a general guide. When submitting a budget with your Partnership Agreement, please provide a yearly budget with projected income and expenses for the upcoming three years. This [budget template](#), including a basic account code structure, is available for you to adapt and use as needed.

Support in the areas of fundraising and bivocational ministry is available; contact a staff person for more details.

Income Categories for Ministry

- Local offerings: funds anticipated from within the church
- Personal fundraising: funds received from church planter's personal fundraising efforts
- Partnership Contributions- may include some or all of the following:
 - Parent Organization contributions
 - Classis contributions
 - Resonate Global Mission grants (please list anticipated grants)
 - Other partner contributions
- Other funding sources: funds received from other agency or foundation grants, etc.
- Other income: funds received through space rental, interest, equipment sale, fund drives, etc.

Expense Categories for Ministry

- Staff expenses- may include some or all of the following:
 - Salary
 - Housing Costs/Allowances- actual rent, mortgage payments or housing allowance, and approved expenses for utilities, maintenance and insurance
 - Pension/Retirement- Social Security or Canadian Pension Plan, Minister's Pension, etc.
 - Insurance- health, dental and life insurance, Canadian Unemployment Insurance or Workman's Compensation
 - Continuing Education
 - Auto- Mileage based on rate per mile or km
 - Telephone- cellular phone, landline service
- Ministry Expenses
 - Administration (Website, office supplies, mailings)
 - Books, Bibles, etc.
 - Leadership Development (Training, conferences, education, books, small groups, etc.)
 - Worship (Equipment, visuals, licensing, etc.)
 - Children's Ministry
 - Hospitality (Supplies, congregational gatherings, community engagement, etc.)
- Facility & Grounds

- Rent, mortgage, utilities, maintenance, equipment, insurance, etc.
- Giving Back
 - Ministry shares, other ministry support
- Ministry Multiplication Escrow
 - Future church plants, new ministry development, etc.

Appendix C – Additional Partnership Team Members

Name: _____

Email: _____

Representing (classis/church/other name): _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Representing (classis/church/other name): _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Representing (classis/church/other name): _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Representing (classis/church/other name): _____

Agrees to support the church plant in the following ways:

