



PARTNER CHURCHES

OF SENDING CHURCHES

Church Planting



NEW & RENEWING CHURCHES
LOCAL MISSION



The New Testament is written from the perspective of church planting. Its authors were actively engaged in that task; its message is uniquely suited to it. To read its pages is to be immersed in the world of missional communities sharing the gospel in the power of the Spirit. It's the story of God doing impossible things through ordinary people against impossible odds. It is nothing less than the spontaneous expansion of the Christian church. And one of the main features of that was deep, sustained and wholehearted partnerships.

Local Mission's New and Renewing Churches department believes that God still does impossible things through ordinary people against impossible odds. We exist to serve the kingdom of God by facilitating church planting and renewal. International research indicates that denominations need to plant new congregations at a rate of 3% per year, just to stay still. Our new goal is one of growth, not maintenance. We desire a 5% growth in congregations, and that equates to 23 new churches per year. Ambitious? Absolutely. But let's not underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT IS A PARTNER CHURCH?

Not all congregations are able to be a sending church (though, surprisingly, it's not the biggest and best resourced congregations which always make good sending churches!).

Partner churches are just that: *partners* in the mission of church planting.

That partnership is expressed in prayer, practical support, personal relationships and participating in ministry support of the new churches that are planted.

Our goal is to see *every* congregation in the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCA/NZ) understand itself as either a sending church or a partner church.

We invite you and your congregation to join this church planting journey with the LCA Board for Local Mission, through its Committee for New and Renewing Churches, as a **partner church**.



THE PARTNER CHURCH COMMITMENT

Partner churches support sending churches in these ways:

- **Prayer:** Church planting is hard work – the teams will need much prayer support. Partner churches will receive regular updates and prayer bulletins from the church planting teams of sending churches.
- **Encouragement:** Church planting teams and their families need encouragement. Partner churches can do this by visiting the teams in their new congregations or by writing to them to let them know they are being prayed for.
- **Finances:** Most church planting team members will be tentmakers (self-funded lay workers) who may need financial help to keep themselves and their families afloat.
- **People:** There may be individuals or families whom partner churches will commission to be part of a church planting team even if only for a short time or to serve a specific purpose.

Partner churches stand alongside sending churches for the long haul.

HOW TO BECOME A PARTNER CHURCH

Engage your congregation in this invitation. Discuss how you might be able to support a sending church, and pray about it whenever you and your leadership team meets. If you have any questions, give us a call (see details on back). We are always happy to encourage mission-minded people.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it,
but God has been making it grow

(1 Cor 3:6)





SUPPORT CHURCH PLANTING RIGHT NOW

This church planting venture is financially possible because of the LLL Local Mission Support Fund. You and your congregation can support the LCA's church planting ventures by contributing to the permanent fund. This fund provides ongoing support to Local Mission year after year. Go to the **lll.org.au**

Alternatively, you can give financial support directly to the New and Renewing Churches department as we support sending congregations. Donating here provides a once-off cash injection that benefits the LCA church planting movement.

Go to **lca donate .online/church-planting**

Importantly, talk to Dr Tania Nelson about which sending congregations are looking for a partnership with you. Once we've matched you up with a sending congregation, we'll encourage you to develop the partnership directly with your sending congregation. You'll soon see the benefits of your prayer, encouragement and financial and people support. And don't forget to tell us about your partnership! Your story will be an encouragement to others.

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