



Memorandum of Understanding 3M Re-envisioning Church Agreement

Our philosophy for local church re-planting and re-envisioning goes hand in hand with our philosophy for District multiplication. We believe the two are inseparable.

First, there is the aspect of *theological realignment*. The pursuit of theological realignment to the understanding of the God of mission and to the mission in which he is engaged, is centric to our district philosophy.

In this realignment, there is the essential blending of *orthodoxy and orthopraxy*. In other words, it is imperative to embrace the biblical theological truth that our God is a missionary God who has consistently called his people to join him on his mission. However, it is not enough to know who God is and what he expects. We should passionately embrace the calling he has placed upon our lives and upon our congregations. We must live ***on mission*** with him by reaching the world around us with the Gospel, making disciples, and advancing his Kingdom through an expanding faithful presence into the communities around us. In other words, we need to practice what we say we believe.

Therefore, the perpetual movement of Jesus' church should be that of faithful participation in the mission of God to redeem his creation.

*"Getting caught up in God's mission shifts the center of attention to God instead of us. We are called to join God in the renewal of all things. Reflecting on the sending nature of God, we discover our own sentness; reflecting on the nature of the incarnation, we discover how we can live into our own sentness. Reflecting on how the Father and Son sent the Spirit, we remember that in our weakness he becomes strong." (J. R. Woodward and Don White, Jr., **The Church as a Movement, Starting and Sustaining Missional-Incarnational Communities, 2016, pg. 124**)*

Ultimately, we believe congregational health and District revitalization hinges upon the pursuit of an aggressive *culture of discipleship and multiplication*. Multiplication-minded leaders will reproduce multiplication-minded disciples, pastors, leaders, and churches. This creates the missional movement that will re-culture District life.

In conjunction with our desired district culture and philosophy of multiplication, which is *multiplying missional movements*, there is a 4-legged foundation for effectively re-planting or re-envisioning a congregation. These 4 legs are:

- 1) *Multiplying Mission*
- 2) *Multiplying Disciples*
- 3) *Multiplying Leaders*
- 4) *Multiplying Kingdom Communities or Congregations.*

The seat of this 4-legged stool is one of *Theological Realignment*. It is imperative to understand that our God is a God of mission and from the beginning he has been on mission to redeem his lost creation. We, as his people, are called to be on mission with him!

YOU have chosen to become a Re-envisioning pastor and congregation! However, as district leaders, we want to make sure you understand what this means. Therefore, we provide this Memorandum of Understanding and *3M (Multiplying Missional Movements) Re-envisioning Church Agreement*.

As you do this, you should understand and agree to the following:

- 1) We understand while there is a desire that every dying or striving church be revived, the district believes it is wise to invest their time, money, and efforts into pastors and congregations that illustrate more potential for growth, mission, disciple-making, and multiplication.
- 2) We understand Re-Envisioning is an intensive development and resourcing process provided for eligible churches and pastors that show solid potential and are committed to going to the next level of mission and multiplication.
- 3) We understand a congregation and pastor must be 100% sold on the re-envisioning process. The district cannot invest resources into congregations that will give less than their best. Every church and pastor are assessed to determine potential and commitment before being admitted into the process.
- 4) We understand the Re-envisioning pastor will participate in Thrive Cohorts as available and expected. Thrive Cohorts are just one means to help these pastors take their churches to the next level. This small cohort will meet for the purpose of discipleship and accountability. They will share ideas and be exposed to the teachings and ideology of Level 4 and 5 leaders.
- 5) We understand these cohort participants will develop congregational values and a strategic plan for ministry, mission, discipleship, and multiplication. Their **visionizing capacity** will be assessed and brought to the forefront. Developing this strategic plan, casting vision, and recruiting the people to make it happen becomes essential to this

process. Eventually they will provide what we call a **3M Action Plan** with a timeline showing their important milestones for the next 2 years.

- 6) We understand if the pastor fails to participate and there is little evidence of leadership growth, we will need to consider if the pastor can lead the church to the next level. In some cases, it may be time for the pastor to step away. Potential churches are sometimes held back by stagnant leaders. In some cases, leadership change is necessary. A pastor who does not fully participate in the re-envisioning process, unless there are critical circumstances which prevent his/her participation, will be dismissed from the process.
- 7) We also understand lay leaders and congregations must be disciplined and challenged to thrive. While it has been said that “everything rises and falls on leadership” we also know that potential leaders have been limited, and in some cases destroyed by congregations that refuse to change. **Pastors and congregations must be able to put Kingdom multiplication into perspective and practice.** In their cultural context, they must be able to discern how to effectively multiply mission, leaders, disciples, and new ministries/communities. Coaching and training must be provided for lay-leaders of the church as well as for pastors. We understand the same training offered to church planters will be used for our re-envisioning leaders and their congregations. While the pastor is in a Thrive Cohort and in a vital coaching relationship, he/she and the lay leaders will be trained through convenient but challenging pathways of leadership growth such as ***Church Planter’s Essentials, The Dirt Road Network, Exponential Cohorts, and district accountability.***
- 8) As a Re-envisioning church we will pray diligently for our District Multiplication Leader. We understand he will invest his time and effort into helping our congregation go to the next level of ministry. We know the district leadership team will not take this lightly and will work diligently. It is essential for us to pray for our district leaders passionately and often.
- 9) We know the District Multiplication Leader and District Superintendent will be praying for us. The process of becoming a Re-envisioning Church is a radical step in a direction that was previously unconsidered. Change is never easy. Sometimes we will be uncomfortable as we are on mission with God. Going onto the highways and byways, reaching the lost and marginalized, making disciples, and recruiting and training leaders are tasks which are not easy or comfortable.
- 10) **We believe multiplication drives revitalization.** If the district (district leaders, pastors, and congregations) becomes devoted to multiplying mission, disciples, leaders, and new Kingdom communities, district-wide revival and revitalization can occur. Multiplicative-minded leaders and congregations possess a contagious, driven, pioneering spirit that can cause an awakening in every open heart. As we infuse a new paradigm of mission

and multiplication into our culture, we will celebrate disciples making disciples, and churches planting churches, until there is a faithful Wesleyan witness in every zip code. ***Holistic district revitalization will come as new churches are planted and our most potential congregations re-envision with a keen focus upon theological realignment and being on mission with God.***

Signed: (Members signing on behalf of the Re-envisioning Church body)

Date: _____

District Superintendent: _____

Date: _____

District Multiplication Leader: _____

Date: _____

INERTIA3M: MULTIPLYING MISSIONAL MOVEMENTS

- REDISCOVERING THE MISSION OF GOD*
- REVITALIZING THE LOCAL CHURCH*
- REPRODUCING MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES*
- RESOURCING KINGDOM MULTIPLIERS*

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