

COVENANT AGREEMENT

Between

_____, the Sponsoring Church, and

_____, the New Congregation

Rationale:

The reason for this covenant agreement is to ensure that everyone involved in the planting and growing of the new congregation understands their responsibilities with regard to the funding and assistance provided from the Sponsoring Church, Three Rivers Baptist Association, Illinois Baptist State Association, and all other Partners.

- Each of these congregations agree to the following policies:

Membership:

All members of the New Congregation are in effect members of the Sponsoring Church. The New Congregation will receive members in the same manner and in keeping with the policies of the Sponsoring Church. The Sponsoring Church will provide a written copy of these guidelines to the New Congregation.

Finances:

- A budget will be prepared and presented annually to the Sponsoring Church for their input and approval. Any changes to the agreed upon budget must be made in agreement with the Sponsoring Church.
- The New Congregation may receive both general and designated receipts. General receipts will be disbursed in accordance with the agreed upon budget. Designated receipts will be disbursed only for what they are designated for and nothing else.
- The New Congregation will give five percent (5%) of undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program and five percent (5%) of undesignated offerings to Three Rivers Baptist Association.
- The New Congregation may not incur additional debt of any kind exceeding a total of \$_____ without the prior knowledge and approval of the Sponsoring Church.
- The treasurer for the New Congregation will provide a monthly financial statement to the Sponsoring Church and all other Partners.

Ordinances:

- The New Congregation is given authority to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper by the Sponsoring Church.
- The ordinances will be administered in the same manner as they are in the Sponsoring Church.

Leadership:

- The pastor of the New Congregation will be called jointly by the New Congregation and the Sponsoring Church. He will be considered staff at the Sponsoring Church and be under the supervision of the pastor of the Sponsoring Church.
- The pastor of the New Congregation will serve as their moderator.

- The New Congregation shall elect a clerk and a treasurer.
- The New Congregation shall elect all other teachers and leaders as they deem necessary for the carrying out of the ministry.
- The same policies that govern the Sponsoring Church as they pertain to business practices and procedures shall govern the New Congregation.
- The New Congregation will utilize SBC curriculum as needed.

Reporting

- The pastor of the New Congregation will complete the blue and white information form at the beginning of each month. Copies of this form will be sent to the following: Supervisor, Mentor, Pastor of the Sponsoring Church, Three Rivers Baptist Association (if required), Illinois Baptist State Association (if required), and the North American Mission Board (if required).
- Supervisors will send a copy of the blue and white information form to the above each month.
- Failure to file reports could result in the delay or loss of funding.

Evaluation:

- Benchmarks and mile markers will be utilized to gauge the progress of the New Congregation. These will be set forth in the strategy document.
- Regular meetings will be scheduled to evaluate the overall ministry.

Funding:

- Funding will not automatically be renewed at the end of each year. The renewal of funding will be based on the following criteria:
 - the effectiveness of the new pastor and new congregation,
 - the growth potential of the mission field,
 - the funds available for the work,
 - progress toward the goals set in the Planning Profile.
- The Sponsoring Church, Three Rivers Baptist Association, Illinois Baptist State Association, and the North American Mission Board have the option of terminating the funding at any time if it is determined that the terms of the covenant are not being met. This would not be done in an arbitrary manner, but in a spirit of compassion and understanding. Termination of funding would only be done in consultation with the Partners.

Cooperation:

- The New Congregation shall cooperate with the Sponsoring Church, Three Rivers Baptist Association, Illinois Baptist State Association, the Southern Baptist Convention, and any other Partners involved in the process.

