

The CTK Boston Church Planting Center

Part 3 of a series outlining CTK's Spring Stewardship Initiative

As you know, this month the elders of the church have decided to put a special emphasis on stewardship and generosity, highlighting these in the sermons and visits to community groups. We're also inviting everyone in the church to participate financially to help continue our momentum in greater Boston church planting. This article explores the function of our Church Planting Center.

CTK has a long history of planting churches. In the past, we relied more on opportunity and less on strategy. But we became convinced that proactive church planting in an urban context would require a more coordinated approach. We needed a better way to select suitable sites for new churches; recruit, support and develop church planters; define vision and strategy; and provide administrative oversight.

To those ends, we established the CTK Boston Church Planting Center (CPC) in the summer of 2009.

It is the objective of the CTK Boston Church Planting Center to plant 20 new churches in and around Boston by 2020. Our vision is to effect the gospel renewal of Boston for the glory of God and the joy of the city.

What does the Church Planting Center do?

During its initial two years, the CPC has been focused on putting in place the strategies and resources needed to lay a foundation for sustainable church planting. This includes:

Research: demographic, social and cultural analysis of the city and its surrounding towns

Site identification: locating and researching prospective church planting sites

Recruiting: cultivating relationships with potential church planters for Boston

Networking: forming cooperative relationships with local churches and others outside CTK

Coaching: building an internal coaching and mentoring network for church planter development, training and support

Prayer: growing a network of prayer partners

Fundraising: inviting CTK alumni and other individuals and churches to partner with us financially

Going forward, we aim to launch new sites at the rate of 2 to 3 per year. We'll put additional emphasis on recruiting and placing church planters on the field. We hope to implement a church planting apprenticeship program, as well as a summer internship program. And we'll need to continue to develop internal coaching and mentoring opportunities for new planters.

Also critical to maintaining our multi-congregational approach to church planting is an efficient and scalable central **administrative core** from which all church plants derive support. We're in the process of building this infrastructure, which includes administrative, financial, legal, operational, fund development and donor relations functions.

We're always looking for volunteers to help out. Some key areas of need include: newsletter editing, development consulting, graphic design, web development, video production, data entry, event planning and demographic research. Contact the CPC to find out more.

Pledging and Giving

*Some folks have asked for more specific instructions for participating in the stewardship campaign.
Here are some practical details to help clarify the process.*

We're inviting everyone in the church to make a cheerful, prayerful, and sacrificial financial commitment to our Stewardship Campaign. This commitment is over-and-above your regular offering which is necessary to support the ongoing ministry of the church.

Our total goal is \$100,000. The church leadership has already committed over one-third of this goal. We're asking you to help us with the remainder.

We recognize that not everyone has the same ability to give, but we do want to invite you to pray and give according to your ability. We need gifts of all sizes and none is too small or insignificant.

We will collect pledges throughout May, culminating on Sunday, May 22nd. (But of course we'll continue to accept pledges throughout the year.) Our budget year starts in July, so giving to fulfill your pledge can begin any time after July 1.

Pledging

You may make a financial commitment in several ways:

- Complete a commitment form on the Spring Stewardship Campaign brochure. You can find a copy on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Or download a copy of the form at http://www.ctkboston.org/pdf/Commitment_Form.pdf. Drop the form in the offering on Sunday or mail it to the church office.
- Complete the form online at <http://www.ctkboston.org/giving/make-a-pledge>

Giving

You may fulfill your pledge all at once, or over the course of the year: weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. There are several options for giving:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Check</i> | You may write a check and drop it in the offering on Sundays. Please be sure to write "Stewardship" in the memo line. You may also mail a check to the church office. |
| <i>Cash</i> | Use an envelope and specify "Stewardship" on the outside. Drop it in the offering on Sundays. If you would like your gift recorded for tax purposes, include your name and address on the envelope. Please do not send cash in the mail to the church office. |
| <i>Online</i> | While we don't yet have an online giving option, you may use your bank's online Bill Payment service to send single or recurring gifts to the church. Please add "Stewardship" to the memo line. |
| <i>Appreciated assets</i> | Please contact the church office if you would like to initiate a transfer of appreciated assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.). |

We're grateful for your participation in the campaign! Let us know if you have any questions.