**PURPOSE:** To clarify the objectives, guidelines and responsibilities of the church planter, the partner church, and Dakota Baptist Convention in the planting of a new church.

**CHURCH PLANT NAME AND CITY OF CHURCH PLANT:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**OBJECTIVES:**

* To establish a successful strategic partnership that facilitates the planting of a healthy, evangelistic, multiplying church.
* To develop mutual participation, trust, and ownership of the new work.
* To develop working relationships in ministry, support of missions, doctrinal beliefs, and accountability.
* Joint participation in regular meetings for prayer, encouragement, and evaluation of progress on strategy and accomplishments of goals.

**SUGGESTED RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERS DURING THE COVENANT AGREEMENT:**

**Partner Church**

* Enlist a prayer team for church planting effort.
* Assist in developing a strategic plan to plant the church.
* Enlist and deploy volunteers, as requested by the church plant, to regularly assist the church plant.
* If possible, to assist in the financial support for planter and the church plant.
* Assist in helping the planter to meet legal requirements, insurance requirements, accounting, and membership requirements, conducting ordinances, etc.
* Guide the church planter to financially support missions through the Cooperative Program and other local association, state convention, SBC mission’s entities.
* Assist in providing and/or securing and maintaining meeting facilities / location for the church plant.

 **Dakota Baptist Convention**

* Provide church planting coach for the planter.
* Mobilize prayer support for the church planting effort.
* Assist in developing a strategic ministry plan for the church plant and future daughter churches.
* Assist with financial support for ministry needs, and, if agreed upon, financial salary support for a limited time for the planter.
* Provide accountability for the planter in following SBC doctrinal statements and Cooperative Program mission’s support.
* Provide personal and corporate evangelism training for the church planter, plant leaders, and congregation.
* Assist planter in submitting quarterly reports and providing copies to all partners in this covenant.

 **Church Planter**

* Commit to planting a Southern Baptist Church (SBC) as defined by a balance of:
1. **Doctrine:** Affirmation of SBC doctrinal teachings and beliefs as expressed in the “*Baptist Faith and Message*” adopted by the SBC in 2000. (Note: *If “Baptist” is not used in the name, there must be a stated affiliation with the SBC in the constitution and by-laws*
2. **Moral Excellence:** Be in full agreement with NAMB’s code of conduct expectation for planters. <https://www.namb.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NAMB_CodeofConduct2017.pdf>
3. **Cooperation**: Participate in Acts 1:8 Kingdom Missions: Participate in mission causes through the SBC’s *Cooperative Program*. It is required that church plants give a minimum of 10% of undesignated receipts as well as extending missions involvement through associational, state, national, and international offerings. The mission causes we expect the church to cooperate in besides the Cooperative Program are the Baker Missions Offering for state missions, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, and Annie Armstrong Missions Offering for work in North America.
4. **Responsibility:**
	* Complete and submit an**Annual Church Profile**. The DBC will send the church planter the information on how to fill out and submit the report.
	* Complete the **Church Planting Projector** for NAMB**.**
	* Participate in the training and coaching provided by the Dakota Baptist Convention.
	* Cooperate with the partner church leadership and the DBC’s church planting leadership in developing a comprehensive strategy of Kingdom multiplication.
	* Commit to enthusiastically fulfilling all the functions of the new church (i.e., prayer, evangelism, discipleship, preaching / teaching the Word, worship, stewardship, missions, fellowship, etc.)
	* Plan and lead the church plant to identify a new church location within 2 to 3 years after arriving on the field. Can give permission to the CPC to help in locating the next plant location.
	* Submit the new NAMB Quarterly report to the DBC and the partner church if required. (Note: *(1) The report is to be submitted online no later than the 15th of each month, following the end of the quarter; (2) failure to submit a quarterly report will result in loss of funding until the quarterly report is completed.*
	* Church planters will attend the DBC’s *Annual Baptist Gathering*
	* Be loyal to the Southern Baptist Convention and the Dakota Baptist Convention.
	* Identify as a SBC Church with NAMB’s Approved logos (on the website and appropriate documents).

The undersigned parties enter into a covenant relationship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to plant a new church in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of city and state).

The covenant agreement is a commitment of the undersigned parties to provide support to the church plant for up to one year from the date the church planter gets to the ministry field. This covenant can be extended for up to three years upon annual renewal.

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*Partner Church Representative Date*

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*Church Planter / Pastor Date*

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*DBC State Director of Missions or Church Planting Catalyst Date*