

## THE COST & THE FUNDING SOURCE

A typical church plant needs up to \$225,000 of support over three years to flourish. The ECC and the GLC both invest up to \$75,000 in each plant. The balance is raised by the church planter. Historically, the GLC has relied on proceeds from the sale of closed-church buildings to fund new church plants. Recent closures have not added sufficient funds to support church plants beyond 2019. We need the help of individuals, foundations, churches and organizations to continue advancing the mission of the GLC through church planting.

## PLEASE DONATE THROUGH YOUR CHURCH...

The strongest church plants develop out of a three-way partnership between a local church, the Great Lakes Conference and the Evangelical Covenant Church. If your church invites you to contribute to a special offering for church planting, we encourage you to do so without reducing your regular support of your church.

## AND CONSIDER BECOMING A MISSION FRIEND FOR CHURCH PLANTING...

In addition to a special offering, we invite you to consider becoming a GLC Mission Friend for Church Planting by visiting our website at [www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc) or calling the GLC office at 734-451-4670. Cash gifts, pledges, gifts in kind and bequests are welcome.

*PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT FOR A SPECIFIC PROJECT IF YOU WISH, AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HONOR YOUR DESIGNATION. HOWEVER, FOR TAX LEGALITY REASONS, THE GLC MUST BE FREE TO USE YOUR CONTRIBUTION AS NEEDED FOR THE MISSION OF THE GLC.*



**COVENANT  
CHURCH  
PLANTING**  
START STRONG LEAD WELL

# THE TEAM

## Alan Tumpkin - Director of Church Planting

Alan, and his wife Marcia, planted Life Church Southfield in 2011. In addition to leading Life Church Southfield, Alan directs our GLC Church Planting ministry on a half-time basis. He is coaching Arthur Duren (Muskegon, MI), Joey Maldonado (Nashville, TN) and Harvey Cozart (Richmond, KY).

## Justin Bowers - Church Planting Coach

Justin planted New Community Covenant Church in Buckhannon, WV, in 2012. His church became the parent church for New Community Covenant Church in Elkins, WV, in 2017 and Justin coaches the pastor/planter, Bobby Benavides.

## Brian Nanninga - Church Planting Coach

Brian planted Life Church Livonia in 2013. With 6 years of church planting experience in a suburban context, Brian is coaching Donearl Johnson at Life Church Auburn Hills.

## Semmeal Thomas - Church Planting Coach

Semmeal planted City Covenant Church in Detroit in 2010. With over 8 years of experience as a planter and pastor in one of the poorest sections of his city, Semmeal now coaches planters who serve in similarly challenged settings.

## Jody Eidnes - Conference Administrator

Jody plays a crucial role in providing the much needed administrative support behind the scenes of every church plant.



**GREAT  
LAKES  
CONFERENCE**  
OF EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCHES

6900 N. Haggerty Rd. Suite 90  
Canton, MI 48187  
[www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)  
734-451-4670

# GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE CHURCH PLANTING

## SPECIAL OFFERING



**GREAT  
LAKES  
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OF EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCHES

**We seek to join God in the work  
that He is doing to draw people to  
Himself in communities across  
the Great Lakes region**

# WHY WE PLANT CHURCHES

Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples. Starting new churches is the New Testament pattern for fulfilling the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Lost people matter to God. Church planting is one of the most effective ways to reach people for Christ. \*

The U.S. unchurched population is the largest mission field in the English-speaking world and the third largest globally.

Recent studies show that less than 20% of Americans attend church (Evangelical, Mainline, Orthodox) on any given Sunday.



Church planting helps break down cultural and racial barriers. 14 out of the 20 most recent GLC church plants were among populations of color or were multi-ethnic from the start.

Church plants in economically challenged communities bring both hope and help in Jesus' name to people who are marginalized or forgotten by the rest of society.

*\*On average in the U.S., a church that is 50 years old will only add one new convert per 85 members per year. A church that is 7 years old adds one new convert per 7 members each year. A church that is 3 years old or less adds one new convert per member per year. Conclusion: New churches are the most effective way to reach non-believers with the gospel.*

# CHURCH PLANTING MOMENTUM

## In the Suburbs...

**Life Church Canton (MI)** was planted in 2002. Since then, 1,561 people have come to faith in Christ and the church has grown to 1,415 in worship. Meanwhile, the church has given birth to 2 churches- Life Church Southfield (2011) and Life Church Livonia (2014) and is a "grandparent" to Life Church Auburn Hills (2019).

**Life Church Southfield**  
484 new Christians since 2011; 310 in worship in 2019.

**Life Church Livonia**  
110 new Christians since 2013; 220 in worship in 2019.

**Life Church Auburn Hills**  
Launched in January of 2019; currently holding preview services with over 200 people in attendance.

## In Urban Centers...

**City Covenant Church (Detroit, MI)**  
361 new Christians since 2010. At least one baptism per month for nine years; 235 in worship in 2019.

**Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church (Muskegon, MI)**  
Began in December of 2016 with the assistance of Forest Park Covenant Church. Averaging 230 per week in attendance.

**Sanctuary Columbus Church (Columbus, OH)**  
In their eighth year of reconciliation ministry; 139 in worship in 2019 and 85 new Christians since 2011.

## In Smaller Communities...

**New Community Covenant Church (Buckhannon, WV)**  
Strong Appalachia Outreach ministry; 170 new Christians since 2013. 192 in worship; parent church of New Community Elkins.

**New Community Covenant Church: Elkins (Elkins, WV)**  
Began in October of 2017 with the parenting assistance of New Community Covenant Church of Buckhannon. 29 new Christians and 43 in weekly attendance.

# Our Goal

Our goal is to plant 2-3 healthy, missional, fruitful and multiplying churches per year for the next five years.

# Our Strategy

In a three-way partnership of denomination, conference and local church, we identify and assess prospective church planters. When a pastor and a project are approved, we provide the training and coaching in best practices for church planting (including a church planting residency whenever possible) for a fruitful plant and a flourishing church. When the church plant is launched we provide financial assistance for up to three years, and we continue to coach the pastor and lay leaders of the church for five years.

# Anticipated Church Plants

**Travis and Kendra Chavis (Nashville, TN)**  
Travis and Kendra are developing a core group and raising funds with the aim of planting Capacity Covenant Church in Nashville, TN.

**Georgia Hill (Detroit, MI)**  
Georgia currently serves as Associate Pastor of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit. She is in the process of developing a core group and raising funds with the intention of planting a church in Detroit.

**Vincent Tinch (Detroit, MI)**  
Vince is in a church planting residency with Life Church Southfield. He is hoping to plant a church in Detroit.

**Phil Carr (Detroit, MI)**  
Phil is in a church planting residency with Life Church Southfield. He is preparing to plant a church in Detroit.

**Justin Doyle (Akron, OH)**  
Justin is finishing up ministry at Brown University. He is looking to plant a church in West Akron, OH.

Learn more about each planter at [www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)