



Mission Plant Covenant for Midwest Church Extension

The following is a covenant between **Midwest Church Extension** (herein referred to as "MCE") and _____ (herein referred to as the "Mission Plant"), the conditions and provisions of which each of the parties, by their representatives' signatures, do hereby agree to abide by and adhere to.

1. The Autonomous Status and Doctrine of the Mission Plant

The Mission Plant affirms its clear understanding that the goal of the cooperative relationship set forth in this document is the ultimate establishment of an independent church, holding membership in IFCA International and with sufficient stability and strength to enable it to function effectively. It is further understood that the Mission Plant shall temporarily (i.e., for the duration of this covenant relationship; see item 3 below), and voluntarily relinquish the exercise of its autonomy to MCE only to the degrees specifically provided for in this covenant.

The Mission Plant agrees, for the duration of this covenant, not to engage itself with any other entity by which it invites the possibility of receiving conflicting and/or competing counsel which is contrary to the oversight and purposes of MCE.

The Mission Plant further agrees to officially adopt and maintain the doctrinal position of IFCA International.

MCE affirms that it will assist the Mission Plant, by providing the necessary guidance and counsel, in developing a strategy for growth and ministry. In addition, where applicable, MCE will assist the Mission Plant to become established as an autonomous church, to develop any necessary and appropriate documents, and to establish its organizational structure.

2. Government of the Mission Plant

The Mission Plant agrees to place itself under the sole direction of MCE as represented by the Executive Director and/or his representative. It agrees further, to adhere to all MCE policies and guidelines that are applicable to MCE Mission Plants.

MCE agrees to maintain, through its representatives, regular and meaningful personal contact with the Mission Plant, offering counsel and assistance whenever and wherever needed in order to assure the greatest opportunity for steady progress in the development of the Mission Plant.

The Mission Plant agrees that until such time as a constitution can be adopted that is in accord with MCE policy; it will be governed by the MCE New Mission Plant Constitution executed through a Steering Committee of not more than five (5) members who shall be approved by the MCE Executive Director. Unless otherwise stipulated the MCE Missionary Pastor, when one is attained, shall serve as Chairman of the Steering Committee for the period of time during which the Steering Committee is in place.

MCE agrees to appoint a Steering Committee of responsible personnel, at least some of whom shall be located in geographical proximity to the location of the Mission Plant. Where such are available, some of those local personnel shall be drawn from those involved in the Mission Plant itself. MCE agrees further, to seek a Missionary Pastor to serve the Mission Plant at an appropriate time that is mutually agreed upon by both parties.

3. Time Limit of the Agreement

Both parties, by mutual agreement, establish this covenant for a period of **three** years commencing on **June 1, 2012**. This covenant is renewable, subject to the evaluation and approval of the MCE Board of Directors.

4. Financial Policy

- a. The financial obligation of the Mission Plant to its pastor or other MCE appointed leader shall be the first consideration of the Mission Plant and MCE, and shall take priority over any and all other missionary support. Exceptions to this requirement shall be allowed in the situation of a church that has been incorporated previous to the date of this covenant AND has an established missionary support program. In such a case said missionary support may not be increased without the consent of the Executive Director of MCE.
- b. Financial obligations of the Mission Plant to additional missionaries or missionary agencies shall be subject to the approval of MCE during the term of this covenant. The Mission Plant may contribute to MCE as a regular part of its missionary budget.
- c. At no time and by no means shall this covenant constitute, by inference or interpretation, a transfer of any property rights, ownership, assets, or debts from the Mission Plant to MCE.
- d. Any transfer of property or financial assistance on the part of the Mission Plant or MCE must be arranged by a separate agreement.

5. Change of Pastor or Leadership Personnel

The Mission Plant agrees that it shall make no changes to its pastoral staff or other leadership personnel, during the period of this covenant, without the involvement and approval of MCE.

While MCE reserves the right to remove any missionary pastor from the Mission Plant during the period of this covenant, it agrees not to do so without careful communication and consultation with the Mission Plant. It further agrees that any missionary pastor whom MCE appoints for the Mission Plant must be acceptable to the Mission Plant.

6. Report to the Mission

The Mission Plant agrees to submit a monthly report of its progress, activities, accomplishments, and finances. Such reports shall be submitted to MCE by the Missionary Pastor or an appointed secretary/recorder of the Mission Plant. Report forms supplied by MCE shall be utilized for this provision.

MCE agrees to carefully monitor such reports providing feedback in the form of encouragement, help and prayer as may be indicated.

7. Ordinances

The Mission Plant agrees to regularly observe and practice the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and believer's water baptism, teaching and conducting such ordinances in accord with the doctrinal position of IFCA International.

8. Membership in IFCA International

The Mission Plant agrees that it shall apply for and/or maintain organizational membership in IFCA International as soon as it meets the requirements for this status.

MCE agrees that it shall require the Mission Plant's missionary pastor to maintain individual membership in IFCA International and to actively participate in the activities of the IFCA International Regional serving the geographical area in which this Mission Plant is located.

Date: _____

Date: _____

X _____
(Signed for MCE)

X _____
(Signed for the Mission Plant)

Rev. Date 120530