

Topic Descriptions

The Vision for Church Planting in America and Beyond - Sometimes Christians and churches limit themselves in expanding the Kingdom of God because their frame of reference is based on a few outreach efforts with which they are familiar. When this is the case, it is helpful to take a few steps back and consider what God has done in the past and what He is doing through churches in other places. What could God bring forth from our communities if we would step out in faith and in the strength of God?

How Church Leaders can Inspire & Encourage People to Plant Churches - Whether or not church planting happens is often dependent on the attitude and the vision of church leaders. This topic will address how one urban church goes about inspiring its people to launch new churches using the “swarm” model

How Churches can Work Together at Launching Church Planters - Most churches send people from their own church to plant churches elsewhere. Can plain churches of very different traditions work together in launching a church planter? Learn how various organizations and churches can team together at sending someone to plant churches.

How Church Leaders can Equip and Prepare People to Plant Churches - Effective church planting does not often take place when the effort is led by people who are ill-equipped and ill-prepared. What are some practical ways leaders can equip and prepare the people in their church for planting churches?

Starting an Urban Church in North America
Most kingdom Christians have never attempted to start an urban congregation or even dreamed of doing so. It is so unfamiliar that most would not know how to start. In this topic you will hear some very practical steps for how to go about starting a church in a North American town or city.

Cross-Congregational Teamwork – Discipling Folks like Onesimus - Churches who have a forward vision for growth and discipleship are likely to attract people from other churches who are looking for a different church experience. The easiest way to grow the church is to accept those who wish to transfer from other churches. While there is a time and place for people to change churches, western Christians are often quick to leave their church whenever they think a different church might suit them better. How might churches first offer help to neighboring churches in discipling their own people, rather than quickly encouraging people to switch churches?

Disciple-Making in Church Planting: Leading Bible Study Groups and Discovery Classes

The foundational way to grow the church from the local population is to study the Bible with people and help them understand the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. Without this component, effective church planting is not going to happen.

Facing Issues: Stages in Team Life

Church planting can sound rather exciting and sometimes it is. But there are many weighty matters and relationships to attend to as well. Neglecting to give necessary attention and thought to these matters can sometimes make the difference between a floundering church plant and a thriving church plant.

Break-out Sessions 2 & 3

Join an engaging group discussion on how to reach various segments of our society.

Equipping & Mobilizing Church Planters

How can we encourage church planting outside of this forum? What is keeping prospective church planters from planting churches? What can be done to help church planters begin well, resist distractions, and avoid disillusionment?

Registration for this event is required!

Attendance is limited to 125 people.

**For questions about the program
or about who is invited, contact:**

Coordinator:

Ernest Eby | 814-325-7898 | ernest.eby@gmail.com

Assistant Coordinator:

Gary Kauffman | Thomaston, GA

Constituency advisors/representatives:

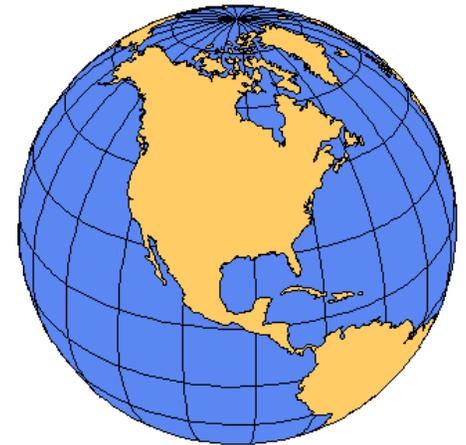
Allen Roth, Alvin Stoltzfus, Curt Wagoner,
Finny Kuruville, Kevin Groff

**For questions about food & lodging or to register
for this event, contact:**

Penn Valley Christian Retreat
7980 Ferguson Valley Road
McVeytown, PA 17051

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6th Annual Church Planters Forum and Retreat



June 12-14, 2019

*Penn Valley Christian Retreat
McVeytown, PA*

Schedule

Wednesday, June 12

9:00-12:30 Check-in & Church Leader's Seminar

- Find your room or campsite
- Recreate with your family and friends
- Attend Seminar for Leaders (optional)

9:45 - The Vision for Church Planting in America and Beyond – Allen Roth

10:50 - How Church Leaders can Inspire & Encourage People to Plant Churches – Kevin Groff

11:55 - How Churches can work together at Launching Church Planters – Alvin Stoltzfus

12:30 Lunch – [Forum and Retreat Begins]

2:00 Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

2:10 How Church Leaders can Equip and Prepare People to Plant Churches
-Finny Kuruvilla

3:10 Starting an Urban Church in North America
Jason Allgyer

4:10 Break

4:20 Cross-Congregational Teamwork – Discipling Folks Like Onesimus
– Mel Bricker

5:20 Dismiss for supper

5:30 Supper

7:00 Offering and Worship
Disciple-Making in Church Planting;
Leading Bible Study Groups and Discovery
Classes – Allen Roth

*Most topics are 45 minutes long
with a time for questions at the end.*

Thursday, June 13

7:00 Prayer Meeting 1: *Prayer for more Laborers*

7:45 Breakfast

8:45 Prayer Meeting 2: *Prayer for more Laborers*

9:30 Song, Scripture Reading, Announcements

9:45 Breakout Session 1

- Starting an Urban Church in N. America - Part 2 – Jason Allgyer
- Facing Issues: Stages in Team Life – Allen Roth
- Engaging the Lost & the Unchurched – Ernest Eby

10:45 Break

11:15 Interacting with neighbors. (Ladies Session)
– Laura Kauffman

12:15 Dismiss for Lunch

12:30 Lunch

2:00 Announcements & Prayer

2:15 Breakout Session 2

- Engaging Folks on Government Assistance – Clayton Shenk
- Engaging Immigrants and Internationals – Marlin Weaver
- Engaging Professing Christians Who do not Have a Clear Two-kingdom Worldview – Finny Kuruvilla

3:45 Break

4:00 Breakout Session 3

- Engaging Parents and Families - Shenk
- Engaging Students & Professionals - Kuruvilla
- Engaging People through Electronic Media – TBA

5:20 Dismiss for Supper

5:30 Supper

7:00 Offering and Worship

Introduction of Churches Represented

Friday, June 14

7:00 Prayer Meeting 1: *Prayer for more Churches*

7:45 Breakfast

8:45 Prayer Meeting 2: *Prayer for more Churches*

9:30 Song, Scripture Reading, Announcements

9:45 Round Table Discussion

Equipping & Mobilizing Church Planters

10:30 Closing Comments and Prayer

10:45 Packing up, Fellowship, Committee Meetings

12:00 Lunch

*Feel free to relax and visit on the
property until 4:00 P.M.*

Purpose and Goals

Church Planters Forum and Retreat

- Provide a forum for kingdom Christians to strengthen a vision for indigenous church planting around the world, including church planting in or near North American cities.
- Provide a setting for church planters to learn from each other and avoid pitfalls common to this work in God's Kingdom.
- Nurture an atmosphere that will revive and bring fresh vision to church planters who are experiencing burnout or disappointment.
- Develop relationships among church planters that will discourage suspicion and competition.
- Provide a non-urban retreat for urban workers and families.

What kind of church planting is in focus?

Establishing churches with the intention that numerical growth will come from evangelizing and discipling local people, particularly the unchurched.

Who is invited?

We welcome anyone who is actively involved in church planting, those who are preparing for church planting, and any pastors and overseers.

Request from the Planning Committee

Those planning this *Church Planters Forum and Retreat* intend to promote an atmosphere that respects the roles of church authority, practical applications to scripture, disciplined church life, and brotherhood accountability. Anyone whose concept of church does not include these ingredients is asked to defer to those who do hold these convictions.

Event Pricing

Adults & Children 11 and older = \$65

Children (4-10) = \$32.50

Price includes food and lodging.

Campsites are available at a reduced rate.

Speaker reimbursement and a gift to Penn Valley are covered by freewill offerings.