

WHAT IS A PARENT CHURCH

Defined

All church plants are required to have a parent church. The parent church acts as a covering for the church plant (called a Parent Affiliated Church or PAC).

Some PAC's function as a campus of a parent church. This is called an "In Perpetuity" PAC. Others have a parent church only for the first two of years followed by a review to determine if it is ready for General Council status.

Term

For church plants NOT "In Perpetuity" the relationship is reviewed two years after the launch of the PAC. At that time, it may be:

- Renewed for an additional year or...
- The PAC may be ready to exit the parenting relationship and become General Council affiliated.

Required

- The Pastor of the parent church shall be a credentialed minister in good standing of the SoCal Network.
- The parent church must have General Council affiliation.
- The parent church assumes financial and legal oversight for the PAC, including accounting and bookkeeping for the PAC's financial transactions and all reporting, including year-end giving records.
- It is the responsibility of the parent church to make sure the PAC has the necessary insurance coverage.
- It is the choice of the parent church and PAC as to the organizational structure (such as membership of PAC adherents in the parent church, Board membership, and the specific supervision of the ordinary activities of the PAC) as defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two.

Role

Encouragement- The parent church and its pastor are to be a source of encouragement to the PAC and church planter. Suggestions include:

- Prayer for PAC and pastor.
- Remember birthdays and anniversaries of the planter, spouse, and children.
- Celebrate the PAC launch anniversary.

Resource- The parent church and its pastor are to be a resource for the PAC and planter.

- For example- Provide training for children's workers at PAC or supplying a nursery worker.
- It could include allowing the PAC to have access to the office equipment at the parent church.
- It may include financial support or the donation of equipment.
- It can even include sending people from the parent church to the church plant.

Mentor- The parent church pastor is to be a ministry mentor to the planter. Because the parent church pastor usually has more experience, he/she can offer guidance concerning:

- Weddings
- Funerals
- Special occasions
- Handling conflict