



*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

## **EPC Church Planting Residency Program @ Lake Forest Church**

### **LAKE FOREST CHURCH**

Huntersville::Davidson::WestLake::El Buen Samaritano  
8519 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC 28078  
[lakeforest.org](http://lakeforest.org)



# The Nuts and Bolts

## EPC Church Planting Residency Program Description



The EPC Church Planting Residency Program cultivates healthy churches and church planters through immersive learning with experienced planters, in networks of multiplying churches, within missional contexts.

### Why a Church Planting Residency Program?

- **Prepared For Success:** Church Planting is a risky endeavor to which God calls his church *and* it is well-known that a significant number of church plants fail within four years. But wise planning and preparation greatly increases the rate of survival. Developing leaders through intentional training increases the odds of success by more than 250 percent (according to the North American Mission Board). Because we want to develop churches and pastors who will fight the good fight, found flourishing congregations and finish the race, our residency program cultivates church planters and provides them with a network of support through immersive learning in a collaborative context.
- **Pipeline of Prepared Church Planters:** The EPC calls every member church to be a Parent, Partner, or Patron of an EPC church plant – perpetually! The EPC Church Planting Residency Program ensures that when a congregation is ready to plant a daughter church or to become part of a new work in their Presbytery or in a key city, there is a well-flowing pipeline of known and prepared church planters. In this manner EPC churches will be better stewards of future resources invested into church plants.

### How will I be developed as a Church Planter?

Each resident will be developed in their personal life, pastoral vocation, and planting skills through practical ministry, coaching, study, evaluation, and reflection. Residents will write and work through real life case studies, while being exposed to myriad experiences along the way. Every August, residents will attend a gathering at one of the three hubs (The San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, or Charlotte). This gathering will be an orientation, mid-residency evaluation, or graduation, dependent upon a particular resident's current stage in the program.

#### **Personal Life**

- A Rule of Life
- Marriage and Family
- Self-Awareness (Strengths, Struggles, Temperament)

#### **Pastoral Vocation**

- Sacramental Worship
- Biblical and Theological Reflection
- Preaching and Teaching
- Counseling and Care
- Evangelism and Discipleship
- Developing and Training Leaders

- Organizational Leadership
- Ecclesiastical Preparation (including preparation for Ordination)
- Denominational Participation

### **Planting Skills**

- Discernment of Call
- Entrepreneurial Leadership Development
- Administrative Capacity
- Vision Development
- Missional Contextualization
- Development of Church Planting Prospectus
- Financial Development and Fundraising

### **How long is the EPC Church Planting Residency Program?**

Two years is optimal because it provides ample time for orientation, development, evaluation and placement (the discernment of a call). However, applicants with a call in hand from a specific church or presbytery to a particular place can be approved for a one-year residency to ensure timely placement onto the field.

### **Where is the EPC Church Planting Residency Program?**

The three current programs are strategically located to seed a church planting effort that is not merely regional, but national. What is more, these hubs, **New York City, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Charlotte**, possess accomplished EPC church planters, successful church planting networks, and other more established churches that can catalyze the development of each resident. Additionally, these three cultural milieus are diverse enough to provide training for church planting in city center, inner city, university center, suburban, and rural contexts.

### **How do I apply?**

Step 1: Submit an Application via this link \*

- Self-Assessment: Am I Christian, Presbyterian, Reformed, and Missional? (i.e. EPC compatible)
- Description of Ministry Experience
- Sense of Calling (Internal, External, Ministry Outcomes)
- Preferred Residency Site (Bay Area, Charlotte, New York)

Step 2: Participate in a Phone Interview

Step 3: Provide References

- Spouse, Pastor, Professor, Friend, Mentor

Step 4: Receive Approval

Step 5: Begin Fundraising

- Program directors will provide coaching on vision and raising funds.
- Resident raises 50% of the cost of the program and can begin the program when 66% of year one is banked, and 66% of year one and year two is pledged.

## What happens when I complete the residency program?

Because we work hard to appropriately vet candidates for our residency program, it is our expectation that most graduates are ready to plant a church either as a Lead Planter or as an Assistant Planter. These church plants will launch all over the country in various ministry contexts, in partnership with existing EPC congregations. Residents completing the program will receive:

- An Endorsement from the EPC Residency Program
- Placement and Partnership assistance and counsel
- An Application for EPC funding for the church plant

# Residency Programs

## Charlotte EPC Church Planter Residency Program

### Director & Host Church:

The Rev. Dr. Mike Moses apprenticed to an EPC church planter for five years, then planted Lake Forest Church (EPC) in 1998. Lake Forest now worships in four N. Charlotte campuses, with a unique team of four teaching pastors who share sermon preparation and preach live in each community weekly. Due to a relentless commitment to the Great Commission through worship evangelism, the church's outward focused elevator speech tagline is *'for people who've given up on church but not on God.'*



Mike has coached multiple church planters with various ministry strategies (from Reformed liturgical to hip hop worship styles) over 13 years. He teaches "Church Planting & Growth" at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte, serves on the EPC's Church Multiplication Team, and has led Lake Forest to initiate a 10 year vision to become a church multiplying center.

- For more on Lake Forest's shared preaching method, click here.
- For more on Lake Forest's vision and strategy for church multiplication, click here.
- For more on Lake Forest Church, Mike's full biography, etc. click here [www.lakeforest.org](http://www.lakeforest.org)

### Distinctives:

Suburban, multi-site, local mission partnerships, three churches in various stages of development as a church plant, modern & alt worship styles with a Reformed perspective, creative artistic worship environment, access to Gordon-Conwell and Reformed seminary campuses, 10 Charlotte area EPC churches for varied contextual experience and targeted mentoring.

### Key Partnership:

**The EPC Go Center.** This residency will partner with the leadership of the EPC Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic's Church Development arm, called EPC Go Center, for church planter assessment, special training events, and more.

## The San Francisco Bay Area EPC Church Planter Residency Program

### Director & Host Church:

The Rev. Bart Garrett is the Lead Pastor at [Christ Church](#). He also coaches with [Redeemer City to City](#) and teaches Urban Church Planting at the

Newbigin House of Study in partnership with Western Seminary. Bart served at [Perimeter Church](#) (PCA) in Atlanta for four years on the Teaching Team and as the Pastor of Young Adults. There he served on an action team to assist with the launch of Perimeter's Church Planting Residency Program.



In 2006, Bart planted [Christ Church](#) in Berkeley. In 2007, Christ Church started a second location in Oakland, and in 2014, launched a third location in Lafayette as well as a church plant ([The Table](#)) in San Francisco. The pastors of these locations and plants share in collegial ministry and observe a Pastoral Rule of Life together. Additionally, with respect to the residency program, Christ Church is in partnership with [Community Presbyterian Church](#) in Danville, and in significant relationship with [Clayton Community Church](#) in Clayton, [Centerville Presbyterian Church](#) in Fremont, and [San Ramon Presbyterian Church](#) in San Ramon. Connection to these churches will allow residents to observe and participate in churches of different ages, sizes, and cultural locations.

### Distinctives:

Urban and University Center, multi-site, local mission partnerships, three campuses in various stages of development, partnership to [Newbigin House of Study](#), [Western Seminary](#), [Fuller Seminary](#), and with access to the [Graduate Theological Union](#) at Cal Berkeley (the largest theological library on the West Coast).

## The New York City EPC Church Planter Residency Program

### Directors & Host Church:

The New York Residency Program is hosted by the pastors and staff of Resurrection Brooklyn, a collegiate church comprised of multiple neighborhood congregations and affiliated with Redeemer Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Communion and City Seminary of New York.

Since 2004, God has given us the pleasure of participating in the spiritual and ministerial formation of young seminary graduates who now pastor churches here in New York City and throughout the country. Our diverse urban context prepares residents for serving the affluent and influential, the poor and marginal and everyone in between. Spiritual and theological formation is cultivated through participation in a Pastoral Rule of Life, an extensive reading program and guided studies, and lots of fellowship with Resurrection pastors. Residents gain ministry experience as they serve a neighborhood congregation and participate in Resurrection, City Seminary and Redeemer network conferences and events.



Our residency program is overseen by Matt Brown, the founding pastor of Resurrection, and Chris Hildebrand, the executive pastor and the associate director the Brooklyn Church Project, our church planting center.

**Distinctives:** Urban, center-city, university, inner-city, liturgical, sacramental, ecumenical.