

## Key Readiness Factors for Potential Multiplying Churches

Rate your church on a scale of 1 to 5, depending on the degree to which the statement is true: "5" being completely true, "1" being completely untrue.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The church has launched a new worship service, ministry, and/or small group in the past few years.

Helps:

- Have your leaders read and discuss *New to Five*, by Ralph Moore and Jeff Christopherson, which will help you better understand the idea of multiplication
- For worship: have a Church Development staff person do a "Starting a New Worship Service" workshop with key church leaders
- For new ministries: Consider working through the Discipleship Ministries booklet, *Starting New Places for New People*, with key church leaders ([https://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/about-gbod/NCS\\_StartingNewPlaces.pdf](https://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/about-gbod/NCS_StartingNewPlaces.pdf))
- For small groups: have your leaders read and discuss *Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups*, by Nelson Searcy.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The church leaders have attended church planting training, studied church planting, or visited a new church plant within the past few years.

Helps:

- Contact your Church Development (CD) staff to find out what training is available
- Take a team from your church to attend "Exponential" ([exponential.org](http://exponential.org)) or The United Methodist Church's "School of Congregation Development" ([www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/school-of-congregational-development-2017](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/school-of-congregational-development-2017))
- Visit some new-church plants; ask your superintendent or CD staff for suggestions

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The church is growing.

Helps:

- Request that your superintendent use a process, as outlined in ¶213 of *The Book of Discipline*, with your church to get at the root issues behind its lack of growth
- Participate in a Church Development redevelopment process; visit [www.inumc.org/churchdevelopment](http://www.inumc.org/churchdevelopment) for more information



\_\_\_\_\_ 4. There are new Christians in the congregation.

Helps:

- Offer multiple opportunities for persons to explore Christianity and to experience God, such as through ALPHA Classes, church camps, Emmaus Walks, spiritual life retreats, regular discipleship groups, etc.
- Build into your church's ministries some times when you invite people to commit themselves to a relationship with Jesus Christ, and then offer them the opportunity of baptism
- Develop a tracking assimilation process for guests and prospects; to do this read *Fusion: Turning First-time Guests into Fully Equipped Members of Your Church*, by Nelson Searcy
- Offer frequent opportunities for newcomer and new-member orientation classes and youth confirmation

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The church's staffing and budget reflect a desire to multiply.

Helps:

- Determine if a part of your church's vision is to multiply; if so, make sure that it's staffed for multiplication and funds are allocated (rule for planning: staffing expenses should make up 50-58% of a church's budget)
- Have your Staff-Parish Relations Committee read *Effective Staffing for Vital Churches*, by Bill Easum and Bill Tenny-Brittan
- Explore the free, online assessments for church planting, <http://www.inumc.org/calledtobeachurchplanter>, to evaluate those you think might lead your multiplication efforts
- Consider various strategies for multiplication to determine their costs and benefits for your community and context: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/new-church-starts/strategies>

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The church regularly connects with unchurched people outside its building, with the intention of developing a relationship with them.

Helps:

- Encourage and equip members to build relationships with pre-Christians, such as by reading the book, *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships*, by Bob Farr, Doug Anderson, and Kay Kotan
- Have your church do an eight-week study using the book, *Surprise the World!: Five Habits of Highly Missional People*, by Michael Frost



\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Members are aware that the church has a vision to multiply (start a new faith community).

Helps:

- Affirm whether multiplying is truly a vision of your church; have your leaders read and discuss *New to Five*, by Ralph Moore and Jeff Christopherson for guidance
- Vision leaks, so regularly (at least once a month) cast your church's vision of multiplication to the congregation, such as through weekly worship

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. The church is actively studying its mission field (community) and identifying its needs and assets.

Helps:

- Use the tools available at the conference website ([www.inumc.org/assessingyourcommunity](http://www.inumc.org/assessingyourcommunity)), which include a community leadership interview guide, a guide for prayer walking, and a guide for conducting a windshield tour of your community
- Have your leaders read and discuss the book, *Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods*, by John McKnight and Peter Block

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The church is discerning which people groups that God is calling it to reach through a new faith community.

Helps:

- Become a registered user of MissionInsite ([missioninsite.com](http://missioninsite.com)), a free demographic resource, and have CD staff orient you and your leaders to the site
- Describe the type of people your church naturally attracts, and those God is already bringing to it through its worship and other ministries

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. The church has a team specifically leading the congregation in prayer for this effort.

Helps:

- Establish a prayer team specifically focused on leading your congregation in praying for this effort, its timing, committed multiplying leaders, etc.
- Have your prayer team read and apply the book, *Partners in Prayer*, by John Maxwell



\_\_\_\_\_ 11. The church recognizes the importance of understanding the nuances of culture and how it might impact ministry, especially cross-cultural ministry.

Helps:

- Contact Path 1 at Discipleship Ministries for assistance (<https://path1.org>)
- For a list of helpful cross-cultural resources go to [http://indiana-email.brtapp.com/files/file\\_share/churchdevelopment/bibliography+on+intercultural+studies+and+the+multiethnic+church.pdf](http://indiana-email.brtapp.com/files/file_share/churchdevelopment/bibliography+on+intercultural+studies+and+the+multiethnic+church.pdf)

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. The church plans to contact the district, and conference Church Development, for assistance in finding and assessing the right leader/s for the effort.

Helps:

- Contact your CD staff to help assist you in finding and assessing the right leader
- Create a culture of call within your church perhaps by using resources such as the following: *Living Your Heart's Desire: God's Call and Your Vocation*, by Gregory S. Clapper; *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition*, by Brian J. Mahan; *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker J. Palmer
- Visit <http://www.explorecalling.org/resources/>, which provides free resources

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. The church leaders are planning to work on improving the prior readiness indicators.

Helps:

- Create a team to work on your church's readiness, determine which of the above to address, set goals with completion dates, meet on a regular basis, and monitor your forward movement
- Communicate with your church members the intention to improve the church's readiness; provide regular progress reports

***Which factors above does your church need to improve?***

