



## Session Two

# Emerging Forms

**Present:** (:20 minutes)

### THE APPROACHES TO CHURCH PLANTING THAT ARE COMMON TODAY

As you emerge as a church planter, what type of church do you envision yourself leading? Is it traditional or contemporary? Is it small or large? One thing is for sure, it will not be exactly like any church that has already been begun. It will have God's mark on it in new and exciting ways.

By necessity there must be different approaches to Church Planting. Paul said in **1 Corinthians 9:22**: *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.* He took different approaches with different people groups so that he could be more effective in his mission. That's why it is important to know what general approach a church planter will take in fulfilling his task.

There is no exclusive list of approaches. The list that follows is representative of the common forms that have emerged in the past several years. Any church plant will be similar or different to these approaches only by degree.

1. **Program-Based**. Program based church planting is the planting of a church that will minister to people and grow through a variety of church programs. These programs will consist of some combination of evangelism; discipleship; youth, children, men, women ministries; music; missions; and social ministries.

**(Note: Insert at this point a video clip giving an interview with a program-based church planter or a PowerPoint slide with an example of a program-based church plant.)**

2. **Purpose- Based**. Purpose-based church planting is the planting of a church that will focus on the five purposes of a church as identified by Rick Warren. The five purposes are outreach, worship, fellowship, discipleship and service.

**(Note: Insert at this point a video clip of Rick Warren briefly explaining the Purpose-Based church. Another option would be to illustrate this type of church by referencing an specific example in the specific state or association.)**

3. **Seeker-based**. Seeker-based church planting is the planting of churches that intentionally target specific seeker populations, and position themselves to respond to the target's needs.

**(Note: Insert at this point a list of the 25 fastest growing churches in America. Isolate one or two on the list as examples of seeker-based churches. An alternative would be to reference a statistic concerning how many church plants in a recent time-frame were seeker based.)**

4. **Ministry-based**. Ministry-based church planting is the planting of a church that will go into the community, impact people's lives, and draw them towards the gospel.

**(Note: Insert at this point a video clip giving an interview with a ministry-based church planter or a PowerPoint slide with a description of one church that is ministry-based.)**

5. **Relational-Based**. Relational-based church planting is relatively new and attempts to solve the riddle of reaching and congregationalizing postmoderns. Relational-based churches are nothing more than networks of single cell churches. These churches are fluid and spread among relational lines through people networks.

**(Note: Insert at this point a slide or diagram showing how relational-based churches might relate to one another. Another option would be to briefly describe a relational-based network that is succeeding.)**

6. **Affinity-Based.** Affinity-based church planting involves the starting of a church among a specific people or cultural group. The culture can be defined ethnically, by language, socioeconomic factors, lifestyle preferences, or other distinguishing characteristics.

**(Note: Insert at this point a slide or diagram showing a list of various affinity-based churches. Another option would be to play a video clip interview with an affinity-based church planter.**

**Present:** (:10 minutes)

## **THE WAYS PEOPLE MIGHT BE GATHERED IN EACH APPROACH**

**Depending on the approach selected for the church plant, the initial gathering of people will take on different and varied forms. There are some naturally occurring relationships between the type of church being formed and the way that people connect to it and join in its mission. Acts 2:47 says *each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.***

**While there are no fool proof methods of gathering people, there are some generally accepted norms in the process. What follows is a limited list of ways people might be gathered.**

1. **Program-Based.** In program-based church plants people will gather around the opportunity to lead in or serve a specific program or be served by it. In this approach, the individuals might be recruited to the vision or mission of the church plant as described or promoted around the various component programs. **(Give an example of gathering a person around a program; i.e. musician to a music program.)**
2. **Purpose- Based.** In purpose-based church plants people will be drawn to the group because of the clearly defined objectives in the large areas of each Christian's life. Instead of recruiting to perform a program, as above, people gather in order to accomplish an all encompassing purpose. **(Give an example of gathering a person around a purpose; i.e. someone with the gift of encouragement to the purpose of personal discipleship.)**
3. **Seeker-based.** In seeker-based church plants people will connect on the basis of personal identification with others who have passed through the "seeker

stages”. This approach will be characterized by one-on-one invitations with an emphasis on casualness and relevant spiritual themes. Connection may take a longer time in this approach than in others. Many opportunities for participation in the seeker-based church plant may be offered.

**(Give an example of a seeker event conducted with the intention of providing an easy entry point into the church plant.)**

4. **Ministry-based.** In ministry-based church plants people will be gathered around the call to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. Those who are themselves having their needs met will become candidates for joining this plant. An emphasis will be on going outside the structure of the church to those outside. **(Give an example of a church reaching out in a unique ministry.)**
  
5. **Relational-Based.** In relational-based church plants people are attracted to an informal (home like) setting. A long lead time of “friendship” will almost always precede a more formal “joining” of the group. The gathering of people in this type of church plant is largely devoid of structure and program. **(Give an example of one person being drawn into a relationship with someone in a relation-based church plant.)**
  
6. **Affinity-Based.** In affinity-based church plants people form around a common interest or similarity. Much of the recruiting to this group will be done at activities and occasions related to the affinity. It is important in this approach to have specific strategies for the church to move beyond identification only by the common cohesive characteristic.

**Exercise:** (:25 minutes)

## **EMERGING FORMS EXERCISE**

**(Note: The exercise will be introduced by the presenter. Each small group of four to five participants will work at a round table led by a facilitator enlisted prior to the event and briefed as to expectations.)**

### **Overview:**

**The small group will decide upon the type of church (approach) that will work best in their number one ranked scenario (from the exercise in session one). They may choose one of the approaches presented or decide on a novel or combination approach. They will describe what the church plant will look like giving careful attention to specific characteristics. They will attempt to justify their decisions by listing rational and logical conclusions for each. The facilitator will strive to involve each participant in the exercise. One participant will be designated as “speaker” for the discussion time that follows.**

**Instructions:** (corresponds to exercise on page \_\_\_\_ of participant's workbook)

1. **Through discussion in your small group decide on an appropriate approach for your number one ranked scenario from exercise one.**
2. **Make a list of specific characteristics that will describe your church plant.**
3. **Give a brief rationale or justification for each characteristic as it relates directly to your church planting approach.**
4. **Designate one member of the group to take notes and serve as "speaker" for the discussion time that follows.**

**(Example: Program-based approach. Children's Program to include Children's Church. The demographics indicate a large percentage of families with young children. This will also help us gather people within our primary target.)**

**Discuss:** (:20 minutes)

**The large group will hear from each small group via a speaker. The proposed church plant will be described and the rationale for characteristics given. The presenter will keep brief, personal notes and conclude the discussion time by pointing to some of the strengths in each of the small group reports.**

**Ask each speaker to list:**

- (1) **The approach decided upon.**
- (2) **A sampling of the characteristics**
- (3) **One or two characteristics with the rationale.**

**(If time does not allow for every group to be this thorough, the presenter could solicit the information in a round-the-room fashion. Asking each group which approach they chose. Asking them for one characteristic and one rationale.)**

## **Conclusion**

**Conclude the session by giving instructions for lunch. Encourage each participant to use the lunch break to carry on the discussion generated from the topics in Session One (The Need To Emerge) and Session Two (Emerging Forms). Announce the time scheduled to reconvene and the topic for Session Three: Called To Emerge.**