

Wellspring Network

Church Plant Apprenticeship Playbook

www.wellspringnetwork.com

Introduction to the Wellspring Network

The Wellspring network is a vibrant community of churches that value the past and the future, yet remains fully engaged in the present. We are enriched by the diverse treasures of God's kingdom, both the old and the new, that we may minister to the many needs of our neighborhoods and leave a legacy of faithfulness for tomorrow. We are involved in Christ's mission to bring renewal to all people and all places. We seek not only to proclaim, but to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ by providing ministries of love, hope and healing for our community. We are devoted to transforming lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. We long to see every dimension of our lives and our world reflect the wonder and joy of Christ's rule and reign. In essence, we are called to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

In order to reach the Denver metro area and fulfill the mandate to make disciples, we believe the Lord is calling us to plant ourselves in multiple neighborhoods around the city. While it would be simple and easy to stay as one church, God has awakened us to the adventure of having a network of churches in variegated locations. As a network of churches, Wellspring will have the strengths of both a large church, having access to greater resources, and of a small church, pronounced focus on a specific location. The apostle Paul says, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it for the sake of the gospel that I may share with them in its blessings" (1 Corinthians 9:22-23). For the reason of seeing the Kingdom of God come in the Denver metro area, the Wellspring network is committed to starting new congregations in gospel deficient neighborhoods.

Foundations of the Wellspring Network

Why we exist

To see the Kingdom come in Denver through the planting of new churches.

What we do

We plant churches in gospel deficient neighborhoods around the Denver-metro area.

Who we are

Wellspring Network is a Gospel-centered, Sacramental¹ family of Church-Planting Churches characterized by:

- Spirit
- Word
- Sacrament

What we believe

We desire to live out the faith that has been received and carried on by the historic Christian Church throughout the centuries in ways that engage people today. This includes a commitment to the Bible as the Word of God - that it is the truth by which we order our lives. We also hold to the central place of Jesus Christ as the unique Son of God - that salvation is found in His sacrificial death and resurrection alone. Our beliefs are summed up in:

- The Apostle's Creed
- The Nicene Creed
- The 39 Articles
- Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of the Rocky Mountains

¹ Sacramental- focuses on the understanding that God uses creation to communicate His grace. While there are measureless ways His grace is conveyed through what has been made, the two sacraments of the church are Baptism and Communion.

Church Planting Apprenticeship

What is an Apprentice

Regardless of the field, an apprentice is passionate about their trade and are willing to work, risk, and humble themselves to learn and grow. A church planting apprentice is responding to God's call to plant a church and has chosen to take a period of time to mature his competencies and character under the leadership of the Wellspring Network.

Purpose of the Apprenticeship

This position is designed to fulfill a twofold purpose. The first purpose is to further clarify the leaders calling into church planting. The second purpose is to allow Wellspring Network the opportunity to see if the Apprentice is called to plant with the network. Regardless, the ultimate goal is to see the Kingdom of God come through vigorous planting of new churches by a planter who has a crystal calling to plant gospel centered churches.

The Apprentice Profile

We are looking for the following attributes in our church planting apprentices:

1. **Spiritual Vitality** - A vibrant relationship with Jesus, strong devotional practices, a commitment to Word and Sacrament
2. **Theological Clarity** - A clarity on the Gospel, a thorough knowledge of the Bible, a clear understanding of the faith as the Anglican Church has received it
3. **Developing a Calling to Plant a Church**- A developing calling as opposed to a fall back that is pursued when there are no other options or under compulsion from a leader in their lives
4. **Healthy Marriage and Family** - Strong spousal support, a mature marriage, children in a state of health that will allow them to flourish in this work. Also, under consideration is the financial health of the family.
5. **Relationship Building** - Church planting is a people work, we need planters who love people and can intentionally make new relationships
6. **Leadership Ability** - The planter must have the ability to lead others, cast vision, create systems, and prayerfully make decisions with integrity and humility

7. **Emotional Health** – He has addressed issues of identity, depression, anxiety, hurts, fears, and woundedness in his life- not that these things do not exist, but that they are identified, and properly managed, and that healing has been sought
8. **Missional Lifestyle** – He has demonstrated an ability to seek the lost and gather a group that he subsequently has built up; understands and has lived out a life that engages the culture of their city
9. **Disciple Making Skills** – He recognizes that church planting is all about making disciples and has shown the knowledge and ability to equip the saints for the work of ministry
10. **Entrepreneurial Aptitude** – He is a self-starter, a high level of risk-tolerance, the ability to see what could be and the perseverance to see it through for the long haul
11. **Anglican Ethos** – The planter desires to pursue the work of ministry as a faithful part of the Anglican family through Word and Sacrament, in the liturgical tradition

Apprenticeship Expectations

1. Apprentices are expected to invest an average of 15-20 hours per week at the rotational church. Apprentices will be on a three month rotation between the three Network churches. The total apprenticeship spans approximately 9 months.
2. Attend a two hour monthly cohort meeting. This meeting will be comprised of the other Apprentices and Senior Pastor of each Wellspring Network church.
3. Read 3-4 books about church planting.
4. Weekly participation in an intentional coaching relationship with the Senior Leader of your rotational home church.
5. Weekly involvement at the rotational church and engagement in the agreed upon area of focus.
6. A monthly summary of your experience and take-a-ways to be shared at the monthly cohort.
7. A church plant prospectus at the completion of the Apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship Experience

What does a typical month look like? While we recognize that in church world situations are adaptable and flexible, Apprentices can anticipate a combination of the following:

1. Meet once a month with cohort for teaching input and report out
2. Meet once a week with his home church Sr. Pastor to discuss the topic of the month
3. Attend once a week a staff meeting
4. Attend once a week a worship service
5. Serve in one of your focus areas
6. Attend once a month a Board/Vestry meeting
7. Attend and participate once a month in the Network- wide Apprenticeship cohort meeting
8. Experience the development of a church at different life cycles (pre-launch, post-launch, and existing church)

What are some examples of a focus areas? We will tailor fit the Apprentice's focus area based on the strengths and growth needs of the Apprentice. This will be one of the topics discussed at the weekly cohort meeting.

1. Planning a worship service
2. Preaching
3. Teaching
4. Governance
 - a. Board meetings
 - b. Staff Meeting
 - c. Planning retreats and meetings
 - d. Administration training
 - e. Budgets
5. Adult Discipleship
6. Youth Discipleship
7. Children Discipleship
8. Mission and Contextualization
9. Developing vision and mission
10. Setting up a Church Plant
11. Launch Team Development
12. Church Planters soul care
13. Spousal support

14. Leading volunteers/staff
15. Ordination in the Anglican Church
16. Leadership Development

What does the weekly meeting with the Senior Pastor look like?

1. Prayer
2. Teaching input and book discussion
3. Review of the previous week
4. Preview of the week to come
5. Discussion

What does the monthly cohort look like?

1. Eat together
2. Prayer and worship
3. Report out Apprentice experiences
4. Discussion
5. Plan the next month's learning opportunity

How do I become a Church Plant Apprentice?

Go to the Network website (www.wellspringnetwork.com) and fill out the contact form indicating your interest in the Apprenticeship. After you fill out the form someone will be in touch with you about next steps.

For more information and to contact us please visit: www.wellspringnetwork.com