

These are my favorite resources for church planters. Some of them may not be what you typically think of as church planting resources, but after planting a church, I found them to be most helpful.

Must Reads

- *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren - This was by far one of the best book I've read on church planting. Why? Because it gets you to focus on the Biblical Reasons for why the church exists and focuses heavily on applying that to your mission and vision. If you do the work, you will come out with a clear vision for your church plant right from the start and this will put you at a huge advantage.
- *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome* by Kent Hughes
- *Confession Of A Reformission Rev* by Mark Driscoll - This is a true and real picture of church planting.
- *Launching New Churches in a Postmodern Age* by Ed Stetzer - This is the text book on modern day church planting in North America. Stetzer has many books on the subject and lists many resources in this book as well as the companion website for the book - newchurches.com
- *Launch: Starting a Church from Scratch* by Nelson Searcy and Kerrick Thomas. (Read with caution. As they say, there is more than one way to skin a cat. This book seems to assume this is the best and only way).
- *Ten Most Commons Mistakes Made by New Church Starts* by Jim Griffith and Bill Easum.
- *Center Church* by Timothy Keller

Church Planting Networks

There are many great church planting networks. These are just a few I've found that are helpful. I have personally been trained through ARC. Some of these are denominational networks and others are not. The bottom

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line is *there is no reason not to receive training before planting a church*.
Take it from me (I went through it after planting), you need this!

- *Association of Related Churches (ARC)* - arcchurches.com
- *New Thing Network* - newthing.org
- *The Acts 29 Network* - acts29.org
- *The Exponential Network* - exponentialnetwork.com
- *The Church Multiplication Network (Assemblies of God)* - churchmultiplication.net
- *Every Nation* - everynation.org
- *Redeemer City to City (Tim Keller)* - redeemercitytocity.com
- *Church Planters Network* - churchplanters.com
- *North American Mission Board (Souther Baptist)* - namb.net

Church Planting Blogs and Websites

- *Lifeway Research Blog* with Ed Stetzer - edstetzer.com and newchurches.com
- exponential.org

Church Planting Conferences

- Association of Related Churches (ARC) All Access Conference
- Exponential Conference for Church Planters
- Velocity Conference - churchplanters.com

Urban Church Planting

- arcchurches.com/blog/entry/10-lessons-learned-in-urban-church-planting
- redeemercitytocity.com

Free (yes I said free) Resources

- *Elevation Church* - stevenfurtick.com, elevationchurch.org, access.elevationchurch.org
- *NewSpring Church* - newspringnetwork.com
- *Life Church.tv* - <http://open.lifechurch.tv>

Resources for Church Planters

- *Church of the Highlands* - Many of their videos and openers can be used for series - churchofthehighlands.com/resources
- *GROW Network* - Pay \$250/year and have access to all their resources and videos as well as conferences and regional roundtables.
- *Association of Related Churches (ARC)* - share.arcchurches.com

Church Signage and Mailing

- *Group Imaging* - all your signage and they offer a FREE 3 x 7 portable roll out banner to church planters - groupimaging.com
- *MailWorks* - mailworkssii.com

Technology

- *Proclaim Church Presentation Software* - it's in the cloud so it's great for anyone from your church to be able to work on it. For \$30/month you also have access to moving backgrounds and other resources
- *Planning Center Online*
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- *DMR Graphics* - offers a solid website with the Word Press platform that look good and are easy to update yourself for a good price - buffalomediamedia.net
- *Clover websites* - offer a \$1000 dollar template that's easy to update and looks sharp too - cloversites.com
- *New Life Media* - logo design, website development using easy to update Wordpress platform - newlifemediamedia.me

Financial Management Resources

- *BVCMS* - Bellevue Church Management Systems - I would advise every church planter to have some type of system to keep records, especially money. *They give their service free to church planters for one year and this is a system your church can grow with!* This keeps much more than financial records. bvcms.com

Resources for Church Planters

- *Donor Tools* nonprofit donor database for online fundraising, online donations, donor management, and web-based nonprofit CRM. Get started Free! donortools.com
- *QuickBooks* - buy the program or pay a monthly fee for the online version to manage church expenses. quickbooks.intuit.com
- *The City* - a social network for churches that also can manage donations onthecity.org

Church Planting Grants

They are tough to get but they are out there!

- The Day Foundation - unique to New England
- The Des Plaines Charitable Trust
- The Mustard Seed Foundation - <http://msfdn.org/>

Resources for Church Planting Wives

- *The Church Planting Wife* by Christine Hoover
- *Grace Covers Me Blog* by Christine Hoover gracecoversme.com
- *ARC Women* - arcchurches.com/women

Legal Help

- *Start Church* - They exist to help start new churches, legally. startchurch.com
- *Christian Law Association* - Free pro-bono legal help. They can help with Articles of Inc. (this may be different for different states) and bylaws as well as help with the filing of your 501c3. christianlaw.org
- *Love Your Law* - Examples and help on how to file your 501c3 and much more. loveyourlaw.org

Other Resource Lists

- arcchurches.com/equip
- liberty.edu/media/1164/churchplanting/My_Top_10_Favorite_Church_Planting.pdf

Resources for Church Planters

Good Articles

- christianitytoday.com/le/2013/december-online-only/my-top-10-church-planting-tips-from-2013.html

Have some resources you've found helpful but you didn't see on here? Let me know! I would like to compile the most comprehensive list of resources we can find!