

- Mission Planter Assessment
- Mission Planter Training
- Funding
 - Up to \$200,000 over 3 to 5 years
 - Loan repayment over 20 years, interest free

Checklist for considering being a Partner:

- Meet with Mission Facilitator
- Overview of Mission Planting Process
- Presentation to Church Council and/or governing church board
- Congregational decision to Partner in the mission planting process
- Celebrate the Covenant Agreement
- Appoint “Mission Task Force” from Congregation

Questions for Mission Facilitator:

M2C Website: <http://www.m2ctexas.org>



**Mission 200
Texas District LCMS
2008**

What is M2C?

M2C is short for Mission 200. The Texas District, LCMS - our Board of Mission Administration and Board of Directors - has set a goal of 200 "new church starts" by 2017.

What's Happening in Texas?

State	2000 Population	2006 Population	Numerical change	% Change
Texas (2 nd to California)	20,851,820	23,507,783	2,655,963	+ 12.7%

District	2000 Baptized Members	2006 Baptized Members	Numerical change	% Change
Texas (4 th in LCMS)	136,810	137,059	249	+ .18%

Observations:

- The Texas District hasn't kept up with the population growth.
- We continue to be an aging District...fewer unconfirmed members.
- New churches started in the last 10 years have 32.6% unconfirmed members compared to 22.7% in other congregations.
- The attendance increase in the Texas District is centered in the new congregations started in the last 10 years.
- New churches comprise the major increase in member totals for the District.

Why does it matter?

- The Biblical Strategy – Church planting is critically important because it honors God and spreads His fame among the nations. Acts 16:4-5 "As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." In the same way Paul, the other Apostles and countless lay Christians planted churches all over Asia Minor, North Africa and the Roman Empire; Christians today are once again taking up the challenge of church planting. We believe that the time is short until Jesus comes again, which makes the challenge even more urgent.

- Effective Outreach – New churches reach more people and make more disciples than existing churches. A study done for Christianity Today magazine indicated that new churches under 3 years old in America bring 10 people to Christ for every 100 members. The older the church, the more this number drops off: a church 3 to 15 years old will bring 5 per year per 100 members, and after age 15, about 3 people per year per 100. Every congregation can effectively share Christ and be God's instruments in bringing people to faith, but congregations who want to make an exponential Kingdom difference will want to look closely at planting new churches.
- Reaching New People Groups - The Commission Jesus gave His church was to make disciples of all nations. The Greek word translated "nations," *ethne*, has little to do with national borders and everything to do with ethnicity. New churches are the best way to reach urban dwellers in industrialized nations and villagers in developing nations. Texas is home to an ever increasing number of first generation immigrants from many of the nations of the world, so God has given us special opportunities to share the Gospel.

How will the goal of 200 new congregations occur?

- Strong, healthy congregations, both small and large can become actively involved in planting one or more new church starts and, in fact, are encouraged to plant 3 new starts by 2017!
- These might be independent daughter congregations, alongside cross-cultural starts or multi-sites.
- They are not all large congregations! Individual congregations, partnerships of 2 or more congregations, or whole circuits are beginning to think and pray about how they might be involved.

Resources from the Texas District

- Mission Facilitator
 - Planning
 - Counsel
- Three Key Factors to be considered:
 - Right person
 - Right place
 - Right plan
- Demographic Reports for potential target areas
- Mission Planting Planning Worksheets
- Mission Planter Candidates