# A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between [CHURCH PLANT] and [SENDING CHURCH]  
regarding a "Planting Partnership"

[DATE]

# [DRAFT DATED]

This Memorandum sets out the general principles of understanding and agreement between [CHURCH PLANT] (described more fully below) and [SENDING CHURCH], for the formation of a Planting Partnership between the two parties. This Partnership is intended to be established with a spirit of cooperation and goodwill for the purposes seeing a new gospel presence and Christian community established in [LOCATION/COMMUNITY].

# Context

1. The [SENDING CHURCH] vision includes a commitment to church multiplication/planting: *[QUOTE]*
2. In a move to begin to implement this goal, [CHURCH PLANTER] was appointed to lead an initiative to see a new congregation planted in [LOCATION/COMMUNITY]. This initiative is [CHURCH PLANT] and in this role, [CHURCH PLANTER] is the **Lead Planter** and will seek authorization by [NETWORK/DENOMINATION] to this end.

# Agreement

It is agreed that:

* 1. [CHURCH PLANT] will at its establishment be a congregation of [SENDING CHURCH]. However, it will be clearly and publicly stated by both parties that [CHURCH PLANT] will move towards becoming independent of [SENDING CHURCH] to become a recognized congregation in its own right within [NETWORK/DENOMINATION]. Readiness for independence will be assessed after X years from launch and every calendar year thereafter. This Memorandum will either be renewed for another year at such assessment, or terminated if independence is deemed timely, beneficial and appropriate. The following people/office holders will participate in this assessment of readiness:  
       
     [PERSON 1 – from SENDING CHURCH]  
     [PERSON 2 – from SENDING CHURCH]  
     [PERSON 3 – from CHURCH PLANT]  
     [PERSON 4 – from CHURCH PLANT]

At the end of five years, if [CHURCH PLANT] is still considered not ready for independence, then a major viability review will be undertaken to see if [CHURCH PLANT] should continue

* 1. For the duration of the time when [CHURCH PLANT] is a congregation of [SENDING CHURCH]:
     1. [CHURCH PLANT]’s governance structure and leadership will be…
     2. Notwithstanding the above, the [CHURCH PLANT] will remain within the governance structure of [SENDING CHURCH], under the authority of and be accountable to…
     3. [CHURCH PLANT] will endorse and work within the [SENDING CHURCH]’s published vision, and comply with any relevant policies and procedures unless compliance is dispensed with by the governing body of [SENDING CHURCH].
     4. [CHURCH PLANT] will have its own branding but will acknowledge itself as a congregation of [SENDING CHURCH] on all relevant documents, such as annual reports, vision and strategy documents, new member information and web presence;
     5. the [CHURCH PLANTER] will be employed as [OFFICE] by [SENDING CHURCH] with all associated benefits (including payroll, administrative assistance, office space, supervision etc.), pending authorization by [NETWORK/DENOMINATION].
     6. the [CHURCH PLANTER] will be given freedom to raise a Planting Team with people from any of [SENDING CHURCH]’s congregations, while ensuring that all due consideration is given to the existing leadership and operational needs of [SENDING CHURCH] in the form of written or verbal communication that particular members are considering joining [CHURCH PLANT]. The [CHURCH PLANTER] will show appropriate deference to the existing leadership of [SENDING CHURCH] if they should consider it unwise pastorally for a particular member to leave their current congregation for any reason.
     7. [CHURCH PLANT] will have access to [SENDING CHURCH]’s resources to assist in the running of public services or other events.
  2. Financial arrangements, including the [SENDING CHURCH] Church Planting Fund which will fund [CHURCH PLANT] and the employment of the [CHURCH PLANTER], the [CHURCH PLANT] budget, Church Planting Patrons, grants, and the definition of ‘financial independence’ are outlined in the accompanying “[CHURCH PLANT] Plant Finance” document.
  3. This Memorandum in particular and the Planting Partnership in general will be reviewed annually by the [SENDING CHURCH] leadership. Alterations to this Memorandum can be made at any time, provided there is mutual agreement in writing signed by the leadership of [SENDING CHURCH] and the [CHURCH PLANTER].
  4. In the unlikely event of a dispute or misunderstanding arising in relation to the terms of this MOU, which cannot be mutually resolved, the parties agree to refer the matter to a representative from [NETWORK/DENOMINATION] and/or a qualified, independent mediator agreeable to both parties to assist with this process.

Signed:



[SENIOR PASTOR] [CHURCH PLANTER]

[SENDING CHURCH] [CHURCH PLANT]



Date Date



[WITNESS 1] [WITNESS 2]

[SENDING CHURCH] [CHURCH PLANT]



Date Date