



COCWA CHURCH PLANTING DESIGN PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

COCWA is committed to effective and ongoing relationships with its member churches and church planting partners. This document provides a guide to our COCWA partners who are seeking financial support in the planting of new churches.

1. OBJECTIVES OF COCWA CHURCH PLANTING INITIATIVES & THE CHURCH PLANTING FUND

- To provide opportunity to work collaboratively across the COCWA family.
- To create momentum in COCWA through the establishment of a church planting network.
- To provide seed funding for church planting initiatives.
- To see church planters equipped, cared for, supported and empowered to take next steps in their church planting endeavours.
- To enable COCWA churches to gain a growing church planting vision.
- To increase the number of churches in COCWA.
- To establish a revolving renewable perpetual church planting fund

This means that COCWA Church Planting does not support:

- Construction of local church buildings.
- The ongoing payment of local minister's salaries.
- Programs that will require indefinite funding.
- Plants that have no local community engagement (financial or otherwise).
- Plants where only a few people benefit.
- Budgets that are not related to the specific church planting initiative.

2. CHURCH PLANTING APPROVAL CRITERIA

Decisions made in relation to specific church planting initiatives will be based on the following:

- A clear God-given and articulated vision regarding the church planting initiative.
- Endorsements from proven COCWA leaders and church planters.
- Current training that the Church planter has engaged in.
- The clear location of where the church is to be planted.
- A growing launch team that is being identified.
- The level of economic need and description of the life setting and situation of the church planter and new church that is being assisted.
- The potential of the church plant to be sustainable over time.
- The extent to which those seeking support for a church planting initiative are making a personal or communal financial contribution.
- The ability of the COCWA Oversight team to provide the support needed.
- Relationship to existing COCWA churches or Mother Churches.

3. PROGRAM FOCUS

To achieve these objectives the following major types of activity are supported:

3.1 SEED FUNDING FOR NEW PLANTS

The first three years of a new church plant are critical. An initial investment of funds acts as a great encouragement to church planters and their launch teams. Whilst a 'one-off' investment is made, the Oversight Team may consider the potential of an annual investment of funds on a sliding scale over a three-year period. This is dependent on the philosophy, model and location of the plant.

3.2 CAPITAL GIFT TO PURCHASE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

An additional investment of funds will be considered where opportunities exist to support the specific purchase of much needed equipment including, but not limited to:

- Audio Visual equipment.
- Discipleship materials including Bibles.
- Chairs and tables for gatherings.
- Website subscription services.
- Accounting and bookkeeping services provided for by COCWA.
- Large outreach style events.
- Mobile baptistry solutions.
- Professional Development and training opportunities for church planters.

4. PARTNER CHURCH PLANTS & OTHER CHURCH PLANTING ORGANISATIONS

The COCWA Church Planting Oversight Team will work in partnership with COCWA church plants, where a partnership agreement has been signed and where there is trust and confidence in the quality of the relationship and management. As occasion arises, the Oversight Team may seek the assistance of other like-minded church planting organisations in the execution of these design principles.

5. OTHER GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The foundation of COCWA Church Planting is the need for accountability and the desire for the nurturing of relationships based on honesty, integrity and proper stewardship of the gifts of God.
- COCWA Church Planting strives to be ethical and transparent in all aspects of its work. This means that partner churches accepting funding agree to submit regular program reports and financial statements.
- COCWA Church Planting seeks to build trust and mutual enrichment striving to avoid dependency issues wherever we can.
- COCWA Church Planting does not endorse or support a 'silo' mentality but works towards a networking of ideas and a collaboration between church planting leaders. It is expected that those accessing funding will be part of the COCWA Church Planting Network.
- When the new church is ready, all successful applicants will seek to contribute financially to the Church Planting Fund in the furtherment of new COCWA churches.

If you would like more information, please contact Ministry Resource Centre.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9am-3pm