

Policies Governing Church Planting within the CornerStone Pagan Fellowship

(Revised December 2013)

Because of the nature of church planting within the CornerStone Pagan Fellowship, church planters and the churches they plant are, without apology, are held to high moral, doctrinal, and visionary standard. The following is an expression of that standard.

Church Planter Requirements:

1. A church planter will self-identify as Pagan, NeoPagan or New-Age spiritualist with a special affinity for our Earth Mother and call to serving the Neopagan community, specifically, to church planting.
2. A church planter will maintain a Pagan standard of ethics in his professional and private life.
3. A church planter will maintain a personal commitment to consistent prayer, devotionals, sacrifice and study of the Neopagan spiritual path and conduct himself with honesty, integrity, and faithfulness to his congregation.
4. A church planter will avoid any sexual misconduct.
5. A church planter will be passionate about making Neopaganism a mainstream world religion and committed to ensuring that the actions of his congregation are in line with the mission and vision of Cornerstone Pagan Fellowship.
6. Prior to appointment, a church planter will have demonstrated that he is capable of planting a church by passing a Cornerstone Pagan Fellowship assessment process.
7. Prior to appointment, a church planter will present the On Mission Council with a strategic plan for the new church, including the vision and a proposed annual budget outlining the financial need.
8. A church planter will make a minimum commitment of three years to his church plant.
9. A church planter will agree, from the first undesignated offering taken, to budget a minimum of 10% to Cornerstone Pagan Fellowship Program missions.
10. A church planter will have adequate academic preparation relevant for planting a church and functioning as a pastor. Normative preparation in this vein means that the planter will have a seminary degree. However, the Fellowship recognizes that the wide variety of church planting models and the increase in lay-led church planting sometimes makes such a requirement untenable or unnecessary. Thus, in the absence of such preparation, the planter will agree to be involved in ongoing theological and ministerial education as directed by the Education Committee.
11. A church planter will attend a Basic Training event to further equip him for his task within the first six months of arriving on the field. In addition, a church planter will agree to become a regular part of a New Church Support Group for the first three years of the church's affiliation with the Fellowship.
12. A church planter will secure a coach, and will meet at least monthly with the coach during his first three years in the field.

Church Plant Requirements:

1. The plant must have a parenting church which will agree to the parenting church covenant.
2. The plant must observe the eight Holy Days of the Pagan year, and provide weekly meditation services, spiritual services or study sessions.
3. Although it is not required that the church plant have "Pagan" be in its name, the plant will not publicly identify as a

- “non-denominational” church. However, the plant is free to express its openness to people from all denominations.
4. The church plant will not be concurrently affiliated with another denominational organization while receiving funding from the Fellowship, unless an exception is granted by the Board of Trustees.

Church Planter Covenant

As a church planter working in cooperation with the CornerStone Pagan Fellowship, I covenant with the Mission Council and my parenting church to do the following:

_____: I will maintain a Pagan standard of ethics in my professional and private life. I commit to maintain regular times of prayer and personal study of Neopagan spirituality.

_____: I will conduct my ministry in accordance with and not contrary to my personal values and not in contradiction to the vision and mission of Cornerstone Pagan Fellowship.

_____: I will make a commitment to work in the planting of this church for a minimum of three years.

_____: I will, from the first undesignated offering taken, allot a minimum of 10% of those offerings to support Cornerstone Pagan Fellowship Program mission endeavors.

_____: I will attend a Basic Training event within the first six months that I am appointed to serve in the field, and will also seek continuing theological and ministerial education in an effort to be a life-long learner.

_____: I will consistently meet and submit to all other requirements placed upon me by the Fellowship's "Church Planter Requirements" policy document.

Parenting Church Covenant

As facilitator/minister of the parenting church, I speak as the spiritual leader of my congregation on their behalf, agreeing to covenant with the church planter and the Mission Council to do the following:

_____: We will foster an environment that encourages the church plant to discover and celebrate its distinct identity.

_____: We will speak well publicly of the church planter, church plant, and the church planting process.

_____: We will voice any potential concerns with the church planter, church plant, and/or church planting process with the Church Planting Missionary of the Fellowship and/or the Mission Council.

_____: We will encourage support of the church plant by individuals within our church, over and above their regular tithes and offerings to our church.

_____: We will provide emotional, spiritual, and relational support for the church planter and his family during the church planting process.

_____: We will look for opportunities to participate in early church planting activities, such as fund-raising, assisting the planter with events promoting the church plant, or helping with childcare during and immediately after the launch of the new church.

_____: We will recognize the role of the Mission Council in approving, directing, and equipping the church planter. In addition, we recognize their role in recommending the removal of the planter, and discontinuing Fellowship financial support for a

planter in the event of a major moral, doctrinal or visionary infraction.

The On Mission Council Covenant

The Mission Council of Cornerstone Pagan Fellowship agrees to covenant with the church planter and the parent church to do the following:

_____: We will foster an environment that encourages the church plant to discover and celebrate its distinct identity.

_____: We will provide emotional, spiritual and relational support for the church planter and his family during the church planting process.

_____: We will hold the church planter accountable in the areas of faith, work, performance, word and relationships through maintaining a healthy relationship with the church planter.

_____: We will assist the church planter supervisor by staying informed of the status of the church plant, and, when necessary, suggest corrective/instructive changes with regard to strategy, approach and work ethic.

_____: We will equip the church planter with the necessary skills to raise funds, develop networks, and plant a church, as well as assist the planter in identifying possible sources of financial support.

_____: We will provide the necessary assistance to the church planter for a successful church plant.

SIGNATURES

Church Planter/Facilitator: _____

Parent Church Facilitator/Minister: _____

Church Planting Facilitator: _____

Mission Council:

