

BROTHERHOOD

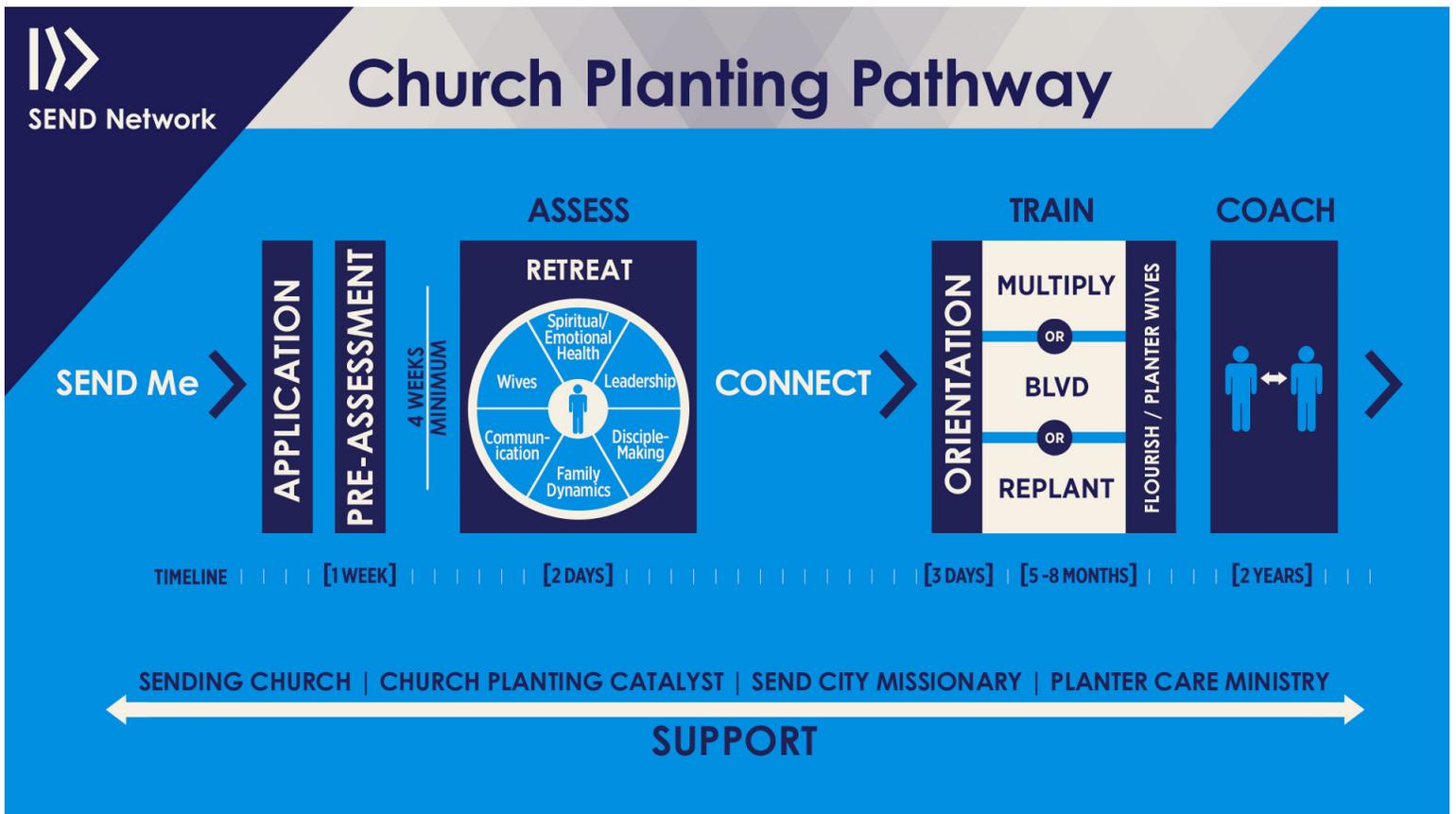
This value speaks to the part of us that rejects isolationism and craves kingdom collaboration. To help foster that spirit of brotherhood, we have tactically imbedded City Missionaries in the 32 most spiritually needy cities across North America. These missionaries help to gather planters together for fellowship, camaraderie and a synergistic spiritual onslaught against the darkness that has long held these cities. Together, as brothers, planters link arms to share the good news of Christ. It looks and feels a whole lot like the book of Acts.

MULTIPLICATION

No church sets out from the start to become the dead-end link on the Great Commission chain. Yet, sadly, recent history shows us the vast majority of evangelical churches have never reproduced. Voluntarily sterile, they have rejected Jesus' teaching that true spiritual power comes from individual and corporate self-denial (Mark 16:25, John 12:24, Matthew 16:24). The Send Network dreams of a different future shaped and embodied by a different kind of leader, a far more courageous and selfless one. We are developing tools and residencies to equip planters and existing churches to facilitate movements beyond a singular church plant. As was the case throughout Church history, gospel movements are never optional.

KINGDOM

Core to our theological underpinnings is the understanding that the local church was never meant to become the primary goal and idolatrous fascination of a disciple of Christ. Rather, by weight of Jesus' teachings, the Church is to see herself as the primary vehicle to a much larger goal, the kingdom of God. A church plant with a kingdom-centric perspective will have a far more transformative affect on its community than one carving its identity as being relevant, edgy or theologically corrective. It is our dream that kingdom-first movements spontaneously spawn from leaders more concerned with the redemptive mission of Christ than their own sacred preferences or clerical reputations. We desire to witness movements rising from movements and changing the trajectory of the gospel across North America.



PRE-ASSESSMENT

Pre-assessment is the first formal step in the church planter process. A set of online instruments asks a series of questions that will help you gauge your readiness to become a church planter. The three areas of focus are church planting capacity, personal character and, if married, the health of your marriage. This discovery pathway is valuable in helping reveal the real you. Depending on the results of your preassessment process, you may be invited to attend the Send Network Assessment Retreat, or be recommended to participate in a church planter internship.

ASSESSMENT RETREATS

This two-day retreat can be one of the greatest gifts you will ever receive as a church planting candidate. You will learn more about your strengths and growth opportunities in these two days than you probably have before, or ever will again. In an environment of encouragement and support, experienced leaders from the context where you desire to plant will measure your church planting readiness in nine essential areas: calling, emotional and spiritual health, family dynamics, vision, leadership, communication, missional engagement, disciple-making and social skills. Assessors, along with a representative from your sending church, will gather at the end of the two-day retreat to make a recommendation and develop a growth plan for you. There are four possible recommendations:

- Green light.** You are thoroughly prepared for the task of planting in this environment.
- Yellow light.** You are ready, but there is an issue of concern. Proceed ahead in the planting process while you work with a coach on strengthening that area of concern.
- Orange light.** There are several areas indicating you are not yet ready to plant in this context. A recommendation toward a church planting internship is likely. A development plan will be drawn up and given to you.
- Red light.** In some cases, the greatest gift that can be given to you as a prospective church planting candidate is the honest appraisal that you are not likely suited for this path in ministry. This transparency will save you from some painful and discouraging days.