

**JUNE 2026**

In 2014, I attended the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis Indiana. The New Church Network had recently been established consisting of several regional Christian church church-planting organizations. The network worked together on planting churches, training leaders, and getting the word out about church planting. Collectively, we shared a booth at the NACC, each taking a shift a day to man the booth. My first shift had me matched up with Phil Claycomb of Nexus.

I was going through a time of dissatisfaction with the ministry I was in. The church we had planted was about to celebrate ten years and had plateaued (and that is incredibly disheartening for a church planter). As we talked about church planting and my situation, he suggested that it sounded like I needed a coach to keep me on mission and pushing forward. I asked him if he was willing to coach me, and within a few weeks, he had me back on track and the church was moving forward on mission.

I have learned, since that time, the immense value of coaching, not just in church planting, but in all ministry positions. Ministry can be incredibly lonely. A coach provides a safe, confidential space for leaders and their families to process struggles, share frustrations, and celebrate victories. It is easy for a planter to become paralyzed by an overwhelming to-do list. Coaches help leaders cut through the noise, establish healthy priorities, and focus on the mission of making disciples. Healthy churches flow from healthy leaders. Coaches help pastors establish rhythms that prevent burnout and prioritize spiritual, emotional, and physical health. Coaching provides the real-time application needed to navigate organizational hurdles like building a leadership team, managing conflict, and strategize next steps in reaching goals.

Effective coaching is essential for effective ministry, as studies show that leaders who receive consistent, competent coaching grow their congregations 50% larger and more quickly than those who go it alone. Coaching provides critical support, objective perspective, and strategic clarity that protects pastors from burnout and multiplies their Kingdom impact. This is why **we prioritize coaching in church planting**.

Starting a new church is a rewarding but frequently exhausting endeavor. Church planters often operate in the "fog," juggling the spiritual care of their congregation with the everyday realities of team building and administration. At NPEA, consistent leadership coaching is a non-negotiable component of our mission. Because the stakes are so high, our organization remains committed to the principle that no church planter should have to go it alone. We connect our planters with seasoned veterans who use the GROW model (Goals, Reality, Options, Will) to help leaders turn their God-given vision into reality. And it's not just for Church Planters.

Your continued prayers and financial support help NPEA stay on mission: Planting Churches and Developing Leaders in the Northern Plains. Together, we are investing in the leaders who will shape the future of the church!

THANK YOU!

Matt Branum

NPEA Director of Planer Care

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES, CHURCHES, & PLANTERS

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