



## Mission Grant Report Form

Iowa District West

Grant recipients are asked to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort or, if a continuing ministry, by January 31 of the following year in which the grant is received. Please submit any pictures, as well, that would help to share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their ministry.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.

*We here at St. Paul are planting a church. Jesus says to go and make disciples, baptize, and teach everything he commanded (Matt. 28:19-20). We believe that planting churches is one of the most effective ways that this is accomplished. We are doing this by recruiting mission-minded people from St. Paul who wish to reach out to their neighbors with the love of Christ into a core mission team, training them, and sending them out to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are calling this new congregation of Jesus followers "The Gate."*

2. What goals were established for this effort; that is, what did you hope to accomplish?

- 1) *Raise awareness and cast vision for the mission of church planting among the congregation of St. Paul*
- 2) *Recruit a mission team from St. Paul and the community*
- 3) *Form Connection Groups (CG) made up of 10-50 people who learn to love God and love one another and who live out the core values of The Gate in community*
- 4) *Train individuals in personal evangelism and how to engage neighbors in spiritual conversations*
- 5) *Form a Discipleship Group (D-Group) for leaders by January 2016*
- 6) *Raise funds for mission*
- 7) *Secure worship space by March 2016*
- 8) *Acquire worship equipment by March 2016*
- 9) *Hold 2 preview services in summer of 2016*
- 10) *Launch public worship in the fall of 2016*

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

*We have achieved all the goals that we have set up to this point. We are working hard to achieve the goals that we have set for future dates.*

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

*If we were to do it again, we would have liked to plan out the vision better and set clearer expectations for what we wanted this mission effort to be.*

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

*With anything new, we have learned that 10% of the people will be on board right away, 10% will be opposed, and there will be a lot of people in the middle waiting to see how things turn out. Change is difficult but when it is accompanied with mission and hope, things run smoother.*

6. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

*The congregational leadership has to cast the vision for church planting for a long time and has to be consistent with it. Present information about church planting until you are blue in the face. Communication is key.*

7. Contact person

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