

## Evangelical Presbyterian Church

### An Architecture to Encourage Church Planting

The following structure will be used to encourage church planting in the EPC.

- **Local Level – Parent, Partner, and Patron Churches.** Local churches will be responsible for vision, funding, and strategic initiatives. (i.e., “We want to plant a church over there”). This helps emphasize that the EPC is not creating a “top down” church planting system. Passion and “skin in the game” must still come from the local level. There won't be a “national strategy” for planting churches in specific places, devoid of local direction through parenting, partnering, and patronage.
- **Presbyteries – CDC Committees & Commissions:** Presbyteries will always be responsible, per BoG, to establish mission groups/mission churches/local churches, as well as examine fitness for office for church planting TEs. These groups will also examine potential elders at the point of particularization of a local church. Presbyteries may establish networks to help organize and lead church planting. Presbyteries will also assist local churches with funding for church planters.
- **Regional Directors** – Regional Directors work for several presbyteries and will provide the key ecosystem for the recruitment, assessment, training, and care of church planters through resources, such as local church planting residencies, coaching, peer cohorts, and regional gatherings. Regional Directors are accountable to a combined board of EPC REs and TEs of the presbyteries in which they serve. These Regional Directors' chief aim is to support the vision of local churches as parents, partners, or patrons.
- **EPC National** – The denomination as a whole acts as the primary networker, liaison, and resource provider to regional leadership by providing a National Director of Church Planting, an annual National Church Planter Retreat, connecting Regional Directors to one another and specific churches and potential church planters. The National Director will also assist the Regional Directors with pipeline development and actively support church planter recruitment.