

planting team assessment application form (married couple)

mission catalyst • info@missioncatalyst.org • (360) 624-7271

Please type your responses and email the completed form to info@missioncatalyst.org.

Today's Date:

Name:

Date of birth:

Mailing address:

Phone number(s):

E-mail address:

Married Remarried Number of years married to current spouse:

Have you ever been divorced? Yes No If so, please describe the circumstance:

Children (including stepchildren):

Name	Age	Live at Home?

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No If so, explain:

Will you submit to a background check? Yes No

Do you or a family member have any health issues that might be a limiting factor in ministry? Yes No If so, please describe:

What are your hobbies and special interests?

Education

School	Year(s)	Degree/Discipline

Employment Experience

Begin with the most recent experience and account for any periods of unemployment.

Company or Organization / Location	Position Held	Year(s)

What was the average weekend attendance when you came to your current church?

What is it now?

On average, how many hours per week do you devote to ministry?

Describe a typical work week.

Leadership

What goals do you have for your current ministry?

What has been the clearest evidence of God's blessing on your ministry?

What adjectives would you use to describe your leadership?

What is the largest and/or most complex organization that you have led? For how long?

How many leaders and potential leaders are you now discipling? Explain your methods.

In what area would others say is your greatest leadership weakness?

List your top spiritual gifts.

What spiritual gifts are you pretty sure you don't have?

How do you encourage the development and deployment of spiritual gifts in the church?

Briefly describe all the start-up projects or programs you have initiated in the last ten years that are still functioning. Give specific examples.

Project/Program	Purpose

Professional Improvement

List the books you have read in the last six months.

In what continuing education programs (including conferences and seminars) have you participated in the past three years?

List the prevailing churches you've visited in the past three years.

Whom do you consider to be your mentor or mentors in ministry?

Name	How often are you in contact?

What is your plan for professional development over the next year?

Spiritual Life

Write a short paragraph about your experience in coming to faith in Christ.

Summarize your Christian journey from conversion to the present.

In what particular area do you struggle in your Christian experience?

Describe your prayer and devotional life.

Evangelism

Describe what you do to build friendships with the unchurched.

How many unchurched people would say that you are their friend?

Give a recent example of a spiritual conversation you had with an unchurched person.

How many people have *you* led to Christ in the last year? Three years?

On the scale below, how would your peers rate you, currently, as a pastor?

<u>Bias towards maintenance</u>					<u>Bias towards church growth</u>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Preaching

What adjectives do your church members use to describe your sermons?

On average, how much time do you spend in preparing for a sermon?

Describe what you do to relate to unchurched people as you prepare for and present your sermons.

How do you call for decisions as part of your sermon? How often?

Emotional Strength

How do you handle stress and disappointments?

How do you resolve conflicts with others?

Describe how you cheerlead someone who does something well.

Describe the time in your life when you faced your greatest temptation to quit. Did you quit or did you hang in there? Explain.

God's Call

Do you believe God has called you to plant a church?

If so, what are the circumstances that led to this conviction?

What do you see as your particular abilities, gifts, and experience that would enable you to start a new church?

How enthusiastic are your spouse and family about planting a church?

What would you be willing to sacrifice, if necessary, in order to plant a church?

Is there a life circumstance that would keep you from planting a church at this time?

If you are not recommended by this process (and no launch funds are committed), what will be your plans regarding planting?

Philosophy of Ministry

Do you sense guidance from God to a particular place, region, or ethnic community?
Please explain.

Describe how you would begin a new church.

Describe the church five years after its start.

Are you in agreement with the Mission Catalyst doctrinal summary (attached)?

Yes No List any areas of disagreement:

What do you see as the proper role of Ellen White?

Spouse Information

Please ask your spouse to provide the following information.

Spouse's name:

Spouse's date of birth:

Spouse's Education

School	Year(s)	Degree/Discipline

Spouse's Employment History

Company or Organization / Location	Position Held	Year(s)

What are your hobbies and special interests?

Please write a short paragraph of your experience in coming to faith in Christ.

Summarize your Christian journey from conversion to the present.

Describe your prayer and devotional life.

How do you handle stress and disappointments?

What do you see as your strongest ministry gifts? How are you exercising these gifts presently?

What is your greatest joy as a minister's spouse?

What is your greatest struggle as a minister's spouse?

What adjectives do you use to describe your spouse's sermons?

How enthusiastic are you about planting a church?

Do you believe God has called you and your spouse to plant a church?

Yes No Not sure Please elaborate, giving reasons why you feel as you do.

Registration Agreement

Please initial each statement, indicating that you understand and agree to the terms. If you are not able to upload a written signature, your typed name will serve as your signature.

Mission Catalyst
P O Box 873520
Vancouver, WA 98687

_____ I understand that, if I cancel after the dates have been agreed on by the candidates and the assessment team, I forfeit the entire registration fee.

_____ I understand that, if the number of candidates falls to fewer than three in number, the event will be rescheduled at a time when at least three candidates will attend. The registration fees of those who were not responsible for the cancellation will be applied toward a future assessment.

_____ I understand that, if I want to reschedule the four-day event, and non-refundable expenses have been incurred by other candidates or the assessment team (e.g., plane tickets already purchased), I will lose my registration fee even if a new date is agreed upon.

_____ I understand that, if I do not complete all pre-work at least three weeks before the four-day event, the assessment team reserves the right to consider my registration cancelled with the consequences mentioned above.

_____ I understand that, if I have children, I am to make sure that their care is provided and that both my spouse and I will be in attendance at all meetings during the assessment event.

_____ I understand that I am responsible for my travel costs and the cost of meals and lodging during the four-day event.

_____ I understand that the Mission Catalyst's Assessment Program is proprietary. I further understand that the list of planting team competencies and methods for assessing them are proprietary and may not be shared or duplicated by me or others in any manner through an exercise, presentation, or any form of media.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Spouse's Signature

Date

Mission Catalyst Doctrinal Summary

There are a minimum number of beliefs that help bring a coherent voice to our message. They include the following:

1. **God is love. He is eternal, all-powerful, and all-knowing.** He is the Creator of all things and the source of compassion, goodness, and justice. The primary manifestations of God are the all-present Spirit and the beings of the Father and the Son (Jesus). (*Revelation 1:8; Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-4, 14, 18; 1 John 4:8; Luke 18:19; Proverbs 29:26; John 4:24; Acts 2:17*)
2. **The Bible is our principal source of knowledge about God and redemption.** It is our ultimate authority for truth, our guidebook for life, and the primary way God speaks to us. (*John 17:17, Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:14-17*)
3. **God created human beings in His likeness.** But the first human (Adam) chose to disobey Him and, thus, cut off the connection to Him and His goodness. As a result, all humanity is sinful. However, God has a plan to reconnect us to Himself and restore His goodness in us. God, in the form of Jesus, lived a sinless human life that fully met God's standard of holiness. When He died on the cross, He voluntarily bore all the guilt of humanity, making His death a complete atonement (compensation) for our sin. He earned eternal life because we never could (any goodness in our lives is simply a fruit of the new life we have in Him), and He offers to transfer eternal life to us. Our part is to accept His gift and rely on Him as our Redeemer and Lord. Without Him, we share in the sinfulness of Adam and the consequence of eternal death (being separated from the only source of life). With Him, we share in His goodness and the consequence of eternal life. The Bible calls this grace – favor we have not earned for ourselves. (*Genesis 1:27, Genesis 3; John 3:16, Romans 5, Romans 6:23*)
4. **Our great hope is the soon return of Jesus to earth, this time in all His glory, to rescue the redeemed and seal the victory over sin forever.** His return will be literal, visible, and experienced worldwide. You can't miss it. (*John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 16:27, Revelation 1:7*)
5. **Obedience to God is an indicator of sincere belief and love for Him.** Christians aspire to reflect His character and follow His will as expressed in the two great commandments – love God and love people. God's ten commandments, found in Exodus 20, expand and clarify these two great commands. Because of our spiritual brokenness, God's Spirit enables our obedience and transformation. (*John 14:15, Matthew 22:36-40, Exodus 20, Romans 2:29, Romans 7:6*)
6. **As the world around us seems to spin faster and faster, we thoughtfully press pause each week and enjoy the retro-practice of Sabbath time.** Each Saturday (as Moses, David, Jesus, and other Bible characters did before us), we celebrate and savor this day of grace. We rest, recharge, and reflect on the stories of God and how they relate to our own. We listen to and love the people who matter most to us. We explore God's creation with our kids. We count our blessings. We worship. And we remember that we don't have to be God, being everything to everyone, everywhere. We can rest in His grace and care and take a day to sync our hearts and minds with His. (*Genesis 2:1-3*)

7. **Water baptism by immersion publicly signifies our decision to die to our own ways and allow Jesus to live out His life in us** (being born again). (*John 3:5-7, Matthew 3:13-17, Romans 6:3-6*)
8. **God's design is for all Christians to be part of His body – the church.** In a world where people are often misunderstood, criticized, and harmed, the church must stand, in contrast, as the place where people are protected, valued, and unconditionally loved. Only in this environment can the church fulfill its twofold purpose: (1) to encourage each other and worship God together; (2) to serve the disadvantaged and fulfill the Great Commission. (*Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 4:1-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 25, Matthew 28:16-20*)
9. When a person dies, Solomon says, “the dust (body) returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” He also noted that “the dead know nothing.” Jesus described death as sleep. **When a person dies, God receives his spirit and preserves it in an unconscious state until one of two resurrections.** The redeemed are brought to life when Jesus returns at the end of the world. The unsaved are resurrected at the end of the 1,000 years, when God puts a final end to sin. They experience the fulfillment of Romans 6:23, “...the wages of sin is death.” God then restores the earth to its original perfection, and it becomes the promised land of the redeemed forever. (*John 11:11-13; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Ecclesiastes 9:5; John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20-21*)
10. **Sex is good. God invented it as an expression of love, for our enjoyment, and to enable us to participate in the miracle of human life.** To protect this most wonderful gift and the people He created to enjoy it, God insists that sex be shared exclusively in the context of a loving marriage covenant. Sexual activity in any other relationship hurts and demeans people and relationships. Marriage is intended by God to be a permanent, loving covenant between a man and a woman. (*Revelation 19:6-8; Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-28; Proverbs 6:32; Colossians 3:18-21*)
11. **Our bodies and minds are God's creation and the residence of His Spirit.** Thus, we are to care for them so that we can effectively represent Him to others and carry out the important work He has given us. (*Genesis 1:27, Ephesians 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*)