

Fellowship Send, Church Planter Resident

Fellowship Send | fellowshipsend.org

Fellowship Bible Church | fbcva.org | 540.662.7743 | Winchester, Virginia

Position Overview

Fellowship Send exists to empower church planters to establish thriving, Gospel centered churches by providing the resources, support, leadership development, coaching, and practical training necessary to overcome the challenges of church planting and make a lasting impact in their communities.

The ideal Church Planter Resident is an emerging church planter who desires to be equipped and developed for the task of planting a new church. The Residency provides an intentional combination of theological formation, practical ministry experience, leadership development, evangelism, discipleship, community engagement, and church planting strategy.

The Resident will serve alongside experienced ministry leaders while progressively taking greater responsibility for developing the skills, character, relationships, and ministry practices necessary to lead and plant a new church during the year long program at Fellowship Bible Church in Winchester, VA.

Key Responsibilities of a Resident

1. Spiritual Formation

The Resident will cultivate the spiritual life and character necessary for long-term effectiveness in ministry.

- Maintain a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Develop consistent practices of prayer, study, worship, fellowship and discipleship.
- Participate in regular discipleship relationships.

2. Church Planting Development

The Resident will progressively develop a comprehensive church planting plan.

- Research communities, demographics, cultures, needs, and opportunities.
- Develop a clear mission, vision, values, and ministry philosophy.
- Develop a strategy for gathering and discipling people.
- Develop a plan for identifying and developing future leaders.
- Develop a strategy for launching and establishing a new congregation.

Fellowship Send specifically provides training in strategic planning, location scouting, resource allocation, timeline development, leadership team development, and elder leadership development.

3. Missional Ministry

The Resident will learn to live and lead missionally.

- Develop relationships with people outside the church.

- Practice personal evangelism.
- Learn and implement effective community engagement strategies.
- Identify opportunities to serve the community.
- Develop a culture of evangelism and discipleship among future church members.

4. Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

The Resident will learn to make disciples who make disciples.

- Develop and lead discipleship relationships.
- Learn to identify, equip, and release emerging leaders.
- Develop small groups.
- Practice multiplying ministry rather than simply doing ministry.
- Develop a clear discipleship pipeline.

5. Leadership Development

The Resident will develop the leadership capacity necessary to plant and lead a new church.

- Recruit and develop leaders.
- Learn effective team building practices.
- Learn to delegate responsibility and authority.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses within leadership teams.
- Develop future elders and ministry leaders.

Fellowship Send emphasizes entrepreneurial initiative, demonstrated leadership, the ability to enlist others, teamwork, and a teachable spirit.

6. Community Engagement

The Resident will understand and love the community where a future church will be planted.

- Study the community's history, culture, demographics, and spiritual landscape.
- Identify community needs and opportunities for service.
- Build authentic relationships with community leaders.
- Participate in community events and organizations.
- Develop creative ways to serve people in the community of the intended church plant.

Desired Qualifications

The ideal Church Planter Resident will demonstrate many of the following characteristics:

- A clear personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- A strong Gospel centered theology and philosophy of ministry.
- A demonstrated sense of calling toward church planting.
- A passion for reaching people who are far from God.
- Evidence of spiritual maturity and personal integrity.
- A teachable and coachable spirit.
- Entrepreneurial initiative.
- Leadership ability demonstrated through previous ministry or professional experience.
- Ability to recruit and inspire others.

- Ability to communicate biblical truth effectively.
- Commitment to teamwork.

Preferred Experience

Preferred candidates may have experience in one or more of the following:

- Pastoral ministry
- Church leadership
- Church planting
- Preaching or teaching
- Community outreach
- Leadership development

A formal seminary degree may be beneficial but should not necessarily be the determining factor.

Fellowship Send's Commitment to the Resident

Fellowship Send is committed to providing more than information. We seek to provide relationships, experience, coaching, resources, and opportunities that prepare the Resident for the realities of planting a church.

Residents can expect:

- Experienced pastoral and church planting coaches.
- A structured development process.
- Practical ministry experience.
- Church planting resources and tools.
- Strategic planning support.
- Leadership development.
- Evangelism and community engagement training.
- Opportunities to preach and teach.
- Opportunities to lead teams.
- Personal development and self-awareness resources.
- Assistance with resource development and financial planning.
- Ongoing assessment and feedback.
- A network of ministry leaders and potential church-planting partners.
- A part time stipend during the year long program.

For more information or to apply for this residency, contact Scott Santmier at scotts@fbcva.org