



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Witness
Outreach and Church Planting

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CHURCHES PLANTING CHURCHES

(formerly *City on a Hill*)

Dear Friends,



*Jean-Jacques
Goulet, Director,
Outreach and
Church Planting*

The City on a Hill project was started by the Commission on Home Ministries (CHM) in 1994 in order to recognize, support, and develop Mennonite urban church work that models combining evangelism, peace, and service for a powerful witness.

In the year 2000, the Evangelism and Church Development Department (ECD) of Mennonite Board of Missions (MBM) became a partner in the City on a Hill project. In 2002, Mennonite Church Canada Witness-Outreach & Church Planting became the sole body with oversight responsibilities for this program in Canada.

Each year a city was selected and given a grant of \$25,000 from CHM and \$10,000 (US funds) from MBM. Both agencies also offered staff support to the local committee. In the third year of the project, an Urban Ministry Director (UMD) was appointed to lead ministry / church planting efforts.

Mennonites across North America were encouraged to pray for these projects and give financial support. A goal of this project was to establish a City on a Hill in each area. Abraham and Sarah caravans were sent to some of these cities to help with church building, renovation activities and to help attract people to new congregations.

In Canada, Toronto, Ontario was selected in 1995; Vancouver, British Columbia in 1997; Montreal, Quebec in 1999; and Edmonton, Alberta in 2001.

What does Outreach & Church Planting (OCP) want to accomplish via the new Churches planting Churches project? We want to:

- Encourage Mennonite congregations in urban areas to “reach across the street” into their cities to plant new self-reproducing missional peace congregations.
- Encourage regional Churches to strategize & implement which urban centres are priorities for new Church plants.
- Live out our unique understanding of Christ’s call to us as Anabaptists through modeling holistic ministry.
- Demonstrate the value of combining service and a peace witness.
- Increase vision and enthusiasm elsewhere for Church planting as a powerful tool for outreach.
- Help in places where there is no area conference presence.

OCP will partner with local congregations interested in Church Planting and with area Conferences to implement these goals. Mission leaders (Hamilton, Oct. 10, 2002) agreed that:

- A minimum \$10,000/year to the Church Plant project is required from other partners.
- OCP will contribute up to \$40,000/year for three years to bring to fruition the local vision.

I envision an exciting future for Churches Planting Churches! For congregations interested in pursuing their church planting dream, an application form is attached.

Yours in ministry,
Jean-Jacques Goulet,
Director, Outreach & Church Planting

City on a Hill has evolved into Churches Planting Churches!



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APPLICATION

Goal — to establish new self-reproducing missional peace congregations in every major Canadian urban centre.

Province / Area Church Committee: _____

Lead contact person's name/address/postal code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Location of proposed Church Plant: _____

Please include a proposal that responds to the following elements:

I. Rationale

- A. A vision statement of your committee or commission for undertaking this Church plant. What will the final reality look like?
- B. The reason for choosing this specific area/city.
- C. Why and how you want OCP to partner with you for this project.
- D. How Anabaptist values of church-community, justice, peace, service, evangelism and future daughter Church plants will be incorporated in the vision.

II. Arrangements

- A. Who/what group will carry the primary responsibility for organizing and carrying out the proposal?
- B. Who will be the church planter and/or what group will give leadership to the new church plantings?
- C. Who/what group will provide support as a coach / supervisor?
- D. What pattern of structure or accountability / supervision will be put in place for new church planters?
- E. Do you anticipate involving MC Canada's Christian Service Ministries (example: Mennonite Voluntary Service), Christian Peacemaker Team (or other peace witness) or any other conference program?

III. Particulars

- A. Time line
- B. Budget for three years
- C. General preliminary demographic study of the area where the new Church will be started. (See page 13 in *Church planning from Seed to Harvest* by Dale L. Stoll - copy available from the MC Canada Resource Centre)

EXPECTATIONS

1. Applications & grant funds will be processed through your respective Area Conference.
2. Area Conferences will be responsible for the on-going mentoring/support of the church plant with the Director of Outreach & Church Planting initiating semi-annual calls (or visits) with Churches planting Churches representatives.
3. Local representatives are free to call staff at any time to share ideas, needs, concerns, questions, etc.
4. The \$120,000 maximum grant provided by OCP will be distributed equally over three years.
5. The second & third year installments of the grants are dependent on satisfactory reports of progress sent by the local committee to OCP.
6. A yearly contribution of \$10,000 from the sponsorship local or area Conference is required.
7. A significant amount of funds will be made available for promotion & visibility of the Church plant.
8. Promotional information and distribution about the Church Plantings and how the larger church can support these efforts are to be sent to the Director of OCP, to solicit wider support among MC Canada congregations. Reasonable costs for these activities will be borne by OCP and is not part of the yearly grant.
9. Persons from the local sponsoring body or the actual Church plant are asked to share news stories, interesting experiences, unanticipated benefits, photos, etc. that will be useful to OCP in publicizing and further promoting the Churches planting Churches project. This requirement is expected for the three year duration of funding.

Return to: *Jean-Jacques Goulet*,
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