

# Definitions and Descriptions of Parent Churches & Support Teams

## Definition of Support Teams:

A support team initiates and guides a new congregation, helping and supporting the new body of disciples until it is self-supporting, self-governing, and self-reproducing

## Definition of a Parenting Church

A parenting church is a called church (or group of churches) who are willing to give their time, people and energy to multiply the kingdom of God in their region. They set aside both a planting team and support team, equipping them to build a prevailing ministry.

## The Multiplying Mindset

- Is harvest-oriented, always seeking one more life to bring into the kingdom of God.
- Is prayerful, asking the Lord of the harvest to send forth workers (Matthew 9:38).
- Is called and empowered by Christ to fulfill the great commission locally.
- Is courageous, overcoming obstacles and fears through perseverance as it seeks to initiate and guide a new congregation.

## Support Team Behavior That Leads to Multiplying

Support Teams receive training and apprenticeship to enable them to successfully establish a new congregation that grows to maturity. They are an empowering ally of and a directive partner to the launch and leadership teams of the new congregation. Other churches, teams, or organizations can be supportive partners, but the Support Team takes primary responsibility, authority, and accountability for the new church's direction and progress. This may mean taking responsibility for a significant, major, or total investment through financial and people resources.

A Support Team recruits, assesses, sends, and provides coaching for the lead planter and his or her team. It is a strong protector in both the natural and supernatural realms through prayer, advocacy, and communication; it is also a long-term partner that celebrates victories with the new congregation and continuously models health, growth, and reproduction.

Support teams are coached by another leader or from a Support Team further into a project so they can fulfill their highest potential as a reproducing church, avoid common errors, and continue to empower (not control) the new church until it reaches

the point where it is mature enough to be self-supporting, self-governing, and self-producing.

(based on <https://www.rca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=4763>)