

CHURCH PLANTING IN SCOTLAND

A survey from respondents at the Maclellan Gathering
Oct 2020

An email survey with 11 respondents from the Maclellan Gathering on Church Planting

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Background

For over 7 years the McLellan Foundation and Transforming Scotland have been working to be a catalyst for the church in Scotland to grow more in love with Jesus and through that for the nation to be transformed. We have identified a number of core elements that will be significant in this – one of these is the planting of new churches.

In 2018 Tim Keller spoke at one of our Convenings about the vital place of church planting in being the sharp edge of any missionary movement. Since that time we have sought to draw together those from a wide evangelical spectrum of Christians in Scotland who are passionate about church planting.

Our Church Planting Convening in October 2020 drew together a group of 40 leaders across Scotland that were involved in strategic level leadership roles in denominations and agencies interested in church planting. We recognised within this time that God was indeed stirring his church in Scotland to bring the Good News of Jesus to the nation through new church planting initiatives.

It was recognised that we needed to find out more about what was happening on the ground and this is where this survey came about.

Survey

We have tried to ensure that any and all church planting agencies and organisations have been consulted but with all such research there are always gaps and flaws. The most obvious one in this survey is that it does not include the BAME church plants of which there are many. We are seeking to address this by connecting with RCCG and other BAME church planters with the hope that we will be able to incorporate their wisdom, experience and learning in future reports.

We also choose not to send this to individual church planters, but rather kept the survey at the strategic level of those leading networks and training organisations in this area. This will also mean that individual church plants and micro-churches have not been included in this survey either.

Aspiration

The desire of Transforming Scotland has always been to seek to work collaboratively across the evangelical spectrum. There is a progression in working together from Competition to Co-existing to Communicating to Co-operating before finally ending in Collaboration. Our sense is that over the last few years with the generous support and encouragement of the McLellan Foundation we have moved from Competing through Co-existing to a level of Communication and for some we are now Co-operating. Our aspiration is that wherever possible we will keep moving along this spectrum step by step, building healthy, trusting relationships which ultimately lead to Kingdom Collaboration.

We recognise that this is a process and will take time. Our desire at this stage is to continue to build relationships which will then lead to shared knowledge, training, support and resourcing. This brief report is the first step in building towards this. More will follow.

Q1: Church Planting: Do you do any of the following: Revitalisation? Work in a new geographical area? Missional Initiatives? Multi sites? or any other type of church planting activity?

20 Schemes	Yes
Baptist Union of Scotland	New Geographical
Catalyst Vineyard Church	Multi-site and New Geographical
Destiny Ministries	New Geographical and fund revitalisation
FIEC	Training and revitalisation
Forge Scotland	New Geographical
Free Church of Scotland	Revitalisation and work in new areas
Free Church of Scotland	New geographical areas
The Church of Pentecost	New geographical
The Church of Scotland	New geographical

Q2: Training, What are the main things you are doing?

20 Schemes	Ragged School of Theology
Baptist Union of Scotland	1. Occasional workshops, 2. Microchurch Incubator. 3. Innovation Collectives
Catalyst Vineyard Church	1 year FT/PT Leadership Academy and monthly hub training.
Destiny Ministries	Personal training for new planters and support for existing planters
FIEC	Independent Church Ministry Course at ETS
Forge Scotland	1. One year Forge Pioneer 2. Ongoing support to Planters for 5 years 3. Church Planting Consultancy
Free Church of Scotland	Monthly training based on City to City. 2. Training at ETS 3. One to one coaching.
Free Church of Scotland	Redeemer City to City Incubator Training programme

The Church of Pentecost	No formal training given
The Church of Scotland	No specific training on church planting
Village Church Scotland	Forge Scotland

Q3: How long does this training usually last?

20 Schemes	2-3 years
Baptist Union of Scotland	Workshop 1 day, Incubator and collectives - 3 months
Catalyst Vineyard Church	Min 1 year but tailored
Destiny Ministries	10 hours content plus personal input
FIEC	12 week course
Forge Scotland	Pioneer is 1 year
Free Church of Scotland	3 years FT + 1 year min
Free Church of Scotland	18 months
The Church of Pentecost	n/a
The Church of Scotland	n/a
Village Church Scotland	From couple of hours to whole weekend.

Q4: How many people are involved?

20 Schemes	20
Baptist Union of Scotland	circa 35
Catalyst Vineyard Church	10 students, 60 at Hub
Destiny Ministries	circa 35 ongoing
FIEC	Course = 11, conference= 60
Forge Scotland	29
Free Church of Scotland	Many in training, 3 in training for local planting
Free Church of Scotland	12

The Church of Pentecost	n/a
The Church of Scotland	n/a
Village Church Scotland	5-20

Q5: What outcomes have you seen?

20 Schemes	People growing in their faith, many in hard to reach groups.
Baptist Union of Scotland	n/a
Catalyst Vineyard Church	7 new sites in 9 years, of which 7 new churches in last 3 years.
Destiny Ministries	5 multi site locations in Edinburgh and 10 churches outwith Edinburgh.
FIEC	People moving to Vocational ministry. A deeper faith life
Forge Scotland	140 people over 17 years. 85-90 church plants & mission projects.
Free Church of Scotland	Three planted. 4th in summer 21
Free Church of Scotland	14
The Church of Pentecost	n/a
The Church of Scotland	n/a
Village Church Scotland	significant personal changes

Q6: How have you funded your Church Planting and Training?

20 Schemes	Outside Churches and grants
Baptist Union of Scotland	Subsidised by Baptist Union and self funding.
Catalyst Vineyard Church	General church funds and offerings.
Destiny Ministries	Sending church. Planters have an outside job.
FIEC	Other FIEC churches, partnership, self financing by attendees.
Forge Scotland	We don't plant but work with Stewardship who help churches get set up. The £1500 training costs are self funded.
Free Church of Scotland	Individual, organisational and other churches from US and UK
Free Church of Scotland	Donors and Churches, training is pro bono

