Formational Mission Questions
Questions and ideas for discussion among leaders of mission start

I. Formational Stage

1. Addressing the questions of mission and purpose — Why do we need a new NALC mission start?
   • What is our mission?
   • What is our vision?
   • What are our guiding principles?
   • What is our purpose?

2. Addressing the question of leaders
   • Who are the leaders among us?
   • What is their role? (vision leaders [council], ministry leaders [prayer, worship, finance, logistics...teams])
   • How do we plan to raise more leaders for this mission?
   • How do we care and support our core leaders?

3. Addressing the question of spiritual formation — What do we do as a church? What are the vital faith formation practices in our church?
   • Prayer?
   • Worship?
   • Sunday school?
   • Bible study?
   • Pastoral care?

4. Addressing and assessing the level of our members convictions and commitment
   • How do we measure the level of financial stewardship?
   • Do we see people giving cheerfully to the mission?
   • How do we rate the level of our core leadership group's commitment? Is this mission exciting for them?
   • How do we encourage, motivate and support one another in this journey?
   • How much voluntary time is spent on mission by members?
   • What do people do other than come to worship?
   • How do we invite, motivate and thank those who serve?

5. Addressing the question of an action plan
   • Do we have a mission plan?
   • Do we have a timeline for checking growth?
   • How are we going to measure our growth?
   • Do we have a plan for prayer and planning retreats or meetings with our key leaders?
II. Launching Stage

1. Addressing the question of site selection
   - Do we have a place of worship?
   - How convenient and conducive is this site for our mission?
   - How cost effective is our site?
   - Do we have a short-term and long-term plan about a ministry/mission site?
   - Is it close to where we want to target the community for services and ministry?

2. Addressing the question of identity formation
   - Who are we and what sets us apart from other churches?
   - What is our confessional and denominational identity?
   - How do we exercise and maintain our uniqueness?
   - Do we have a constitution or have we adopted the NALC Model Constitution?
   - Are we incorporated as a congregation in our state?

3. Addressing the question of image projection
   - How do we want to be known and remembered by our visitors?
   - What is our distinct style, form and practices in worship?
   - Do we have a congregational branding for our mission start? What is the first thing we joyfully and confidently share about our mission start?

4. Defining one's own targeted missional territory
   - Who do we want to reach? This can be defined in multiple ways:
     o What is our defined mission territory?
     o Who are we trying to reach in our area?
     o Do we have a clear vision of our harvest field?
     o What kind of demographic information do we have for our area?

5. Preparing and testing the ground before publicity
   - What means of communication do we use to advertise our mission start?
   - How are we going to test if our messages have come across or are understood and heard?
   - Have we shared our vision of starting a mission start in our community and with some people who are not in our mission start at this stage?
   - How do people react to this vision of starting a mission start in our area?
   - How do we handle the reactions we get to this vision of starting a mission start?
     o Positive reaction?
     o No reaction?
     o Negative reaction?

6. Starting the work of planting the seed and doing the work of an evangelist
   - How do we share the Gospel with the community?
   - Who takes the lead in going door to door, or phone calls and follow ups?
   - Who produces and keeps stock of tracks, brochures and other evangelism materials?
   - Who beats the drum of evangelism and church growth in the mission start?
   - Have we trained our members on how to share the Gospel with non-believers, the unchurched or dechurched population in our area?

7. Building relationship with the community and addressing critical needs to connect with the community
   - How do we build relationships with our community?
   - What kind of major outreach ministries and services do we have for our community?
   - How often do we provide those services?
   - How are people connecting and making use of those services and ministries?