



FORMATIONAL MISSION QUESTIONS

Questions and ideas for discussion among leaders of mission starts

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:
 - What is our defined mission territory?
 - Who are we trying to reach in our area?
 - Do we have a clear vision of our harvest field?
 - 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?
 - Positive reaction?
 - No reaction?
 - 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?