



## **Beginning a Ministry or Outreach within the FMCSC**

It is assumed and expected that every Local Free Methodist Church is eagerly pursuing ways and means to expand the kingdom of God within their communities. As such, the following represents a beginning for discussion as to the general concerns of ministry development within the FMCSC.

Let it be understood that the regional FM Conference, its leadership and resources exist to serve the local church in accomplishing the mission of the FMCNA. It is further understood that the local church accepts and will carry the vision of the Board of Bishops in becoming,

“A healthy biblical community of holy people multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, and churches.”

And prophetic guidance for the FMCSC:

“We foresee the Holy Spirit fulfilling His call upon us to progressively being **an Apostolic movement** once again. The fruit and evidence of this call will be demonstrated as we experience **an explosion of ministry** that taxes us beyond our abilities. In this we will be drive **to depend on God’s Spirit** even more, as opposed to our own might or power.”

Individuals interested in beginning a ministry or joining the FMCSC Team should consider which of the following best suits their situation.

**Emerging Ministry Point:** An official outreach of the local church recognized by the Conference.

**Church Plant:** A start-up ministry launched from a local church or sponsored by the Conference.

**Mission:** A person or group adopted by a local church or sponsored by the Conference to meet a specific need for a specific people and place.

**Society:** A local church or recognized ministry under the authority of the Conference.

## **Emerging Ministry Point:**

The idea of an EMP is simply to help the local church move forward with ministry opportunities, provide a tool for general assessment of ministry candidates, and help the FMCSC to monitor growth of overall ministry within the conference responsibility. An EMP is a formally recognized ministry of a local church and submitted for observation by the FMCSC. Whether this is a home group, outreach ministry, home church, or church within a church, the EMP designation helps to establish the credibility of a ministry candidate, provide ministry experience, and fulfills some denominational requirements for service. Funding for an EMP will come from the local church not FMCSC. At which point an EMP is recognized to be viable spiritually, financially, and functionally, it may then begin the application process for any available funding (see Church Planting Guidelines).

Emerging Ministry Points should seek to include the following factors in their development:

1. Identify a sponsoring Pastor or Church
2. Identify what FMCSC District they are in and participate fully within that group.
3. Seek out a cluster of likeminded FM Ministries partners
4. Seek out Coaching or mentoring from qualified individuals or groups within the Conference.
5. Begin developing long-range vision, goals, strategic plans, etc.