

# CO-MISSION: PLANTING

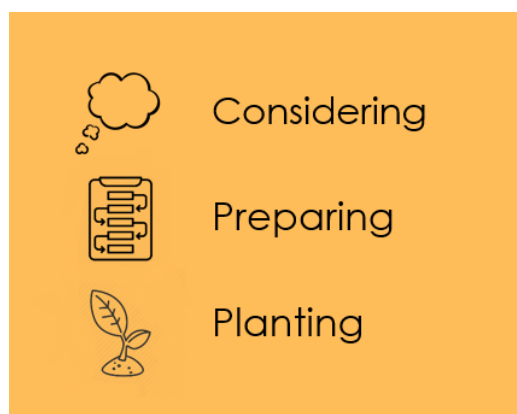
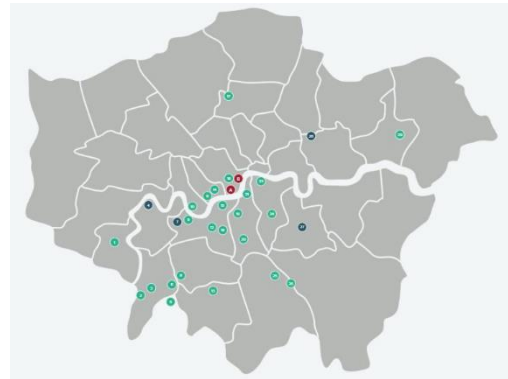
[CO-MISSION](#) IS A CHURCH-PLANTING MOVEMENT THAT GOD HAS BEEN GROWING IN LONDON SINCE 2005 UNITED BY CHRIST'S COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED SAVING.

## Church Planting Training Programme

This training package, which has been running since 2014 is highly rated by those who have experienced it and has proved successful, by God's grace, in planting outcomes. In terms of quality, intensity, practical focus and network experience there is little going on nationally that is comparable. Before September 2019 it was only accessible to Co-Mission planters but, through the London Church Planting Academy, the planter training sessions are now available to planters from other networks – not requiring them to leave their current affiliations (e.g. City-to-City, Acts 29, FIEC, AMiE) nor requiring them to join the Co-Mission network. In this way considerably more planters are able to access the Co-Mission training content and have the great encouragement of being part of a cohort of fellow workers.

## Who's it for?

Planters in the training come from a wide range of backgrounds, are of different ages and levels of ministry experience, are focused on a range of different planting contexts and encompass a number of different networks and churchmanship but all united in a shared vision for planting healthy biblical churches that reach the lost with the gospel of Christ crucified.



Some are considering planting and the Co-Mission training can be very helpful in seeing what planting would involve and making the decision about whether, when and where. Others are at the start of or some way through the preparation stage. This is an excellent time to be involved in the Co-Mission training with lots of help on shaping a good plan. Others are already planting and the training (and peer support and spiritual encouragement) is also very important here – facing challenges in the first year or overcoming inertia and establishing sustainable patterns of growth in year 2 and beyond.

## What do we do?

- Training in urban church planting specifics – high quality material delivered through exposition, lectures, interactive sessions and reading, overseen by the Co-Mission Director of Church-Planting, Richard Perkins.
- 2 year programme with parallel streams for those starting out in planting and those further along the track.
- Training mornings on Wednesdays, 21 weeks per year.



0900	Coffee, Welcome	
0915	Exposition / Convictions that sustain	
1000 Session 1	Term 1: Case studies from established plants Term 2: Planting Proposals from Y1 planters / issues in planting Term 3: Presentations from Y2 planters / issues in planting	
1100	Coffee	
1130 Session 2 'Stages in Planting'	Year 1: Preparation Building momentum Knowledge Designing a small church	Year 2: Progression Maintaining momentum Practice Pastoring a small church
1300	Lunch together	
1330	CPT EXTRA – optional 90 min session	

1. **Bible exposition** – It would be easy to move straight to practical insights or growth principles, but instead the planter training is driven by opening expositions of the living Word – hearing from the One who builds His Church. Particular time is spent in the Pastoral Epistles. We don't take for granted our own spiritual life. Planter-pastors can easily be starved of time sitting under the Word themselves. We can easily drift from a personal love for Christ and joy in the gospel. So this is first for the heart of the planter. Also, while we will major on sequential exposition, we will take a break in Term 2 for a more systematic theological series – 'Convictions that sustain' – looking at doctrines such as the Sufficiency of Scripture, Justification by Faith and Eternal Punishment as vial for sustaining planting ministry.
2. **Planting case studies and appraisals** – This unique and vital component of the training involves church planters at various stages (from experienced serial planters to early stages) presenting to the cohort the 'what' and 'why' of their planting, how it has been going and their reflections. They are then 'interrogated' by the other planters. Both the process of preparing to present a church planting plan (when it is one of the cohort presenting) and the following group

discussion are hugely valuable learning experiences. The accumulated experience of 25 years of church planting within the Co-Mission network can be brought to bear with many lessons learnt from both the 'successes' and the 'failures.' We will occasionally take breaks from case studies to have sessions on 'heart issues in planting' - sessions bringing to bear the insights of biblical counselling to the unique (and not-so-unique) struggles of church planters; dealing with a variety of issues – handling criticism, discouragement, envy, stress, pride and family tensions.

3. **Year 1 / Year 2 streams** – After coffee we usually split into two groups, recognising that there are issues that are particularly important to consider in the early stages of planting (research, design, gathering a team, setting up a charitable trust) and others that are particularly key a year or two in (training leaders, developing pastoral skills, maintaining momentum). However, there will be times when we stay together as a single group to consider topics that are vital at every stage (e.g. evangelism, preaching, cross-cultural ministry). The main approach in this part of the training is principled pragmatism – i.e. rock solid commitment to the gospel and a robust biblical framework but maximal flexibility in method where there is freedom; theologically-driven but highly practical; a very high view of the authority of Scripture and the uniqueness of the Church but also an openness to common grace insights and wisdom.
4. **Lunch together** – This is an important part of our time – building relationships over food. One of the greatest benefits of gathering planters together is the development of friendships with likeminded brothers outside the plant/church where we can share struggles and pray together.
5. **CPT Extra** – After lunch, planters are free to go but there is usually an optional 90 minute session, on a topic of general interest to planters, delivered by an 'expert' in that area – e.g. finances, kids work, music, safeguarding, knife crime.

## Interested in joining us?

- First complete the Co-Mission Planting Training Application course on this site and then, once you've been accepted on the programme, go ahead to enrol on Co-Mission Planting Training.
- Stay on for the excellent City-to-City Incubator afternoon sessions for a reduced combined price.



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 **LONDON CHURCH  
PLANTING ACADEMY**