

Christian Reformed Home Missions

Parenting Models & Strategies

Foster Parenting

1. **Sponsorship:** the parent church provides prayer support and carries out denominational functions as required, with primary direction and funding for the new church coming from Home Missions and other partners.
2. **Contractual:** the new church meets in the building of the parent church by mutual agreement, but functions primarily as an autonomous congregation. A coordinating council is established to resolve facility and financial issues.

Adoptive Parenting

1. **Multi-congregation:** the church is united organizationally and has two or more congregations utilizing the same facilities and other resources.
2. **Satellite:** a church is united organizationally but has two or more congregations ministering simultaneously out of different locations.
3. **Pioneering:** a church-planting team is commissioned by a parent church to start a new congregation similar to or very different from itself.
4. **ReBirth:** a declining church decides to close and release its assets for the developing of a new church – also called Death with Dignity.

Natural Parenting

1. **Planned branching:** a group of members from the parent church, upon its own initiative or upon the initiative of the planter, hives off to start a new church.
2. **Unplanned branching:** a congregation splits and God allows two churches to develop from the one.
3. **Restart:** a declining or dysfunctional church initiates a complete change of leadership and starts over at the same location.

Note: The above descriptions are adapted primarily from materials by Robert Logan and Daniel Sanchez. Christian Reformed Home Missions, Classical Home Missions Committees and other local partners may have a primary or secondary role in any and all of the above models and strategies, as indicated and mutually

Additional Materials & Resources:

Partnership Agreement

Calling the Planter and the Calling Church

Life Cycle Checklist