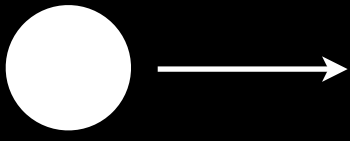


VINEYARD CHURCHES AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND PRESENTS

CHURCH PLANTING PROCESS



BEING DISCIPLES
MAKING DISCIPLES



PROCESS

Introduction

So you want to plant a church? That is so good! The Vineyard family of churches would love to help you.

We believe church planting is the best method of reaching people for Christ, and are committed to planting churches throughout New Zealand. This brochure aims to help people like you who feel called to join us in this task.

If after reading this you still feel drawn to planting with us, please get in touch with your local Vineyard pastor to discuss your plans in more depth. You can also contact the Church Planting Task Force leader directly at churchplanting@vineyard.org.nz for more details.

How does a Vineyard church get planted?

We believe and practise local church-based mission. So churches are planted from existing Vineyard churches, not from “head office” or some agency. However, we have shared resources within our Vineyard movement (VCANZ) – training, funding, skilled and experienced personnel, with an overall knowledge of what is happening in nationally and internationally. We see church planting as a partnership, led by a local church.

The Vineyard Church Development Track

We expect all Vineyard church planters (and key team members) to complete our Vineyard Church Development Track.

This is a two-year training and coaching support track consisting of six components:

1. Monthly training materials (which planters can work through with their teams, or individually), sourced from the best-practice national and international church planting resources.
2. Four weekend training intensives over the two years, based in different types and sizes of churches.
3. Three personal assessments at the beginning, mid-point and end to help focus training needs.
4. Church planting coaches assigned to each planter and team.
5. Regular connection with other planters from around New Zealand, and experienced church planters.
6. Time with the Church Planting Task Force leader to develop your planting plan, funding options and launch procedures.

Five possible planting scenarios

1. Planting from an existing Vineyard church

A church planter (and almost always a well-trained and prepared team) is sent from an existing Vineyard church to plant, after training, assessment and confirmation of the planter's sense of calling.

2. A Vineyard leader planting, but not sent from, an existing Vineyard church

A Vineyard leader moves to a location without connecting to a Vineyard church (because there is no Vineyard church in the area, or for any number of valid reasons). Through their witness, a group develops and want to become a Vineyard church. They then contact the Vineyard Church Planting Task Force leader for the next steps.

3. A non-Vineyard leader plants a church

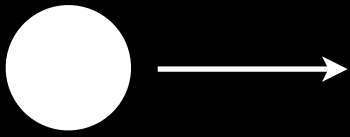
Through consultation with the National Director of the Vineyard Churches Aotearoa New Zealand and the Church Planting Task Force leader, we work to discover whether what they are planting is a Vineyard or not. Then we go through the church "adoption" process.

4. An existing church wants to be "adopted" into Vineyard

Approval is given by the VCANZ Board, in consultation with the Church Planting Task Force leader, normally after a period of time where we walk "side-by-side" to confirm our common vision, heart and goals.

5. A Vineyard planter who is not released to plant from his or her church

In the rare event of an impasse between a potential planter and their church leadership, the prospective planter can appeal to the Church Planting Task Force leader. The three parties will try to work through the issues with two ultimate planting possibilities – the church recognises their calling and sends them, or they go as independent planters (see scenario 2).



Where can you plant?

1. Plants work better in clusters

A group of churches create more synergy than a single church in an area. A number of our churches are planting new congregations and new sites as another form of planting.

2. We want to plant churches in all centres of population 5000 and over.

3. What if there is already a Vineyard church present?

Generally we “protect” the territory of a new church plant for the first two years to give it a chance to get established. The territory could be a specific population area defined by geographical features, or a distinct identity of up to 50,000 people.

As a general guideline, while you could, after two years, plant right across the road from an existing Vineyard church, there would be a lot of great reasons for not doing so. Unless there is a very distinct geographic feature – river, harbour etc, or a socio-economic, church target or style or ethnic distinctive – it is a good idea to not plant within a 10 or 20-minute drive of the closest Vineyard church.

It is also essential to communicate well. While planters do not need the other church’s permission or even blessing, we are family and we need to live well together.

4. What if someone else is already planning a plant where I want to go?

After a planter has approached their church leadership, a church planting plan is given by the planter and/or their church to the Church Planting Task Force leader. The planter and sending church then have one year to action their plan and start, or the territory becomes available for the next planter.

The Church Planting Task Force leader receives the plans and advises whether there is already something planned.

Stages of development (Initiative, Plant, Church)

Stage 1: Church planting initiative (0-25 adults)

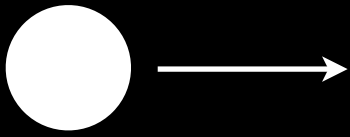
- Apply and be accepted into the Vineyard Church Development Track
- Develop your church planting plan
- Present your church planting plan to your local church leadership and Church Planting Task Force leader
- Begin to recruit and develop your planting team
- Move to planting area
- Start gathering your core group
- Build your congregation around the Vineyard genetic code
- Normally meet mid-week in homes or cafes

Stage 2: Church plant (25-50 adults)

- The smaller the area, the less people you need to launch publicly; the bigger the area, the more you need to launch effectively. The more people you can gather before you launch publicly the more likely the church plant will succeed
- Evangelise and gather up to around 50 people
- Multiple small groups should be meeting
- Church legal and financial structure established – register as charitable trust, set up bank accounts and accounting systems, IRD number, trustees meetings.
- Church leadership structure formed to enable the plant to go public. Worship, children, preaching and teaching etc in place
- Train, develop and multiply leaders
- Outreach events happening
- Meet in a public/non-residential place

Stage 3: Church (50-plus adults)

- Growing infrastructure of small groups and trained leaders
- Clearly recognised and functioning organisational structures in place
- Meeting regularly in public facility
- Accounting and legal practices in place
- Marriage celebrant available (contact VCANZ office for application)
- Leadership community functioning and regularly meeting
- Finances available for staff when required
- Financially committed to VCANZ
- Realistic goals to aim for (larger population centres, larger numbers):
 - Year 1: 0-30
 - Year 2: 30-75
 - Year 3: 75-150
 - Year 4: Send planters to begin the process again



What is VCANZ?

Every Vineyard church is self-governing, self-funding and self-propagating. However, each of our churches has chosen to give some of its independence away in order to be part of something larger than a single church – an interdependent family of churches.

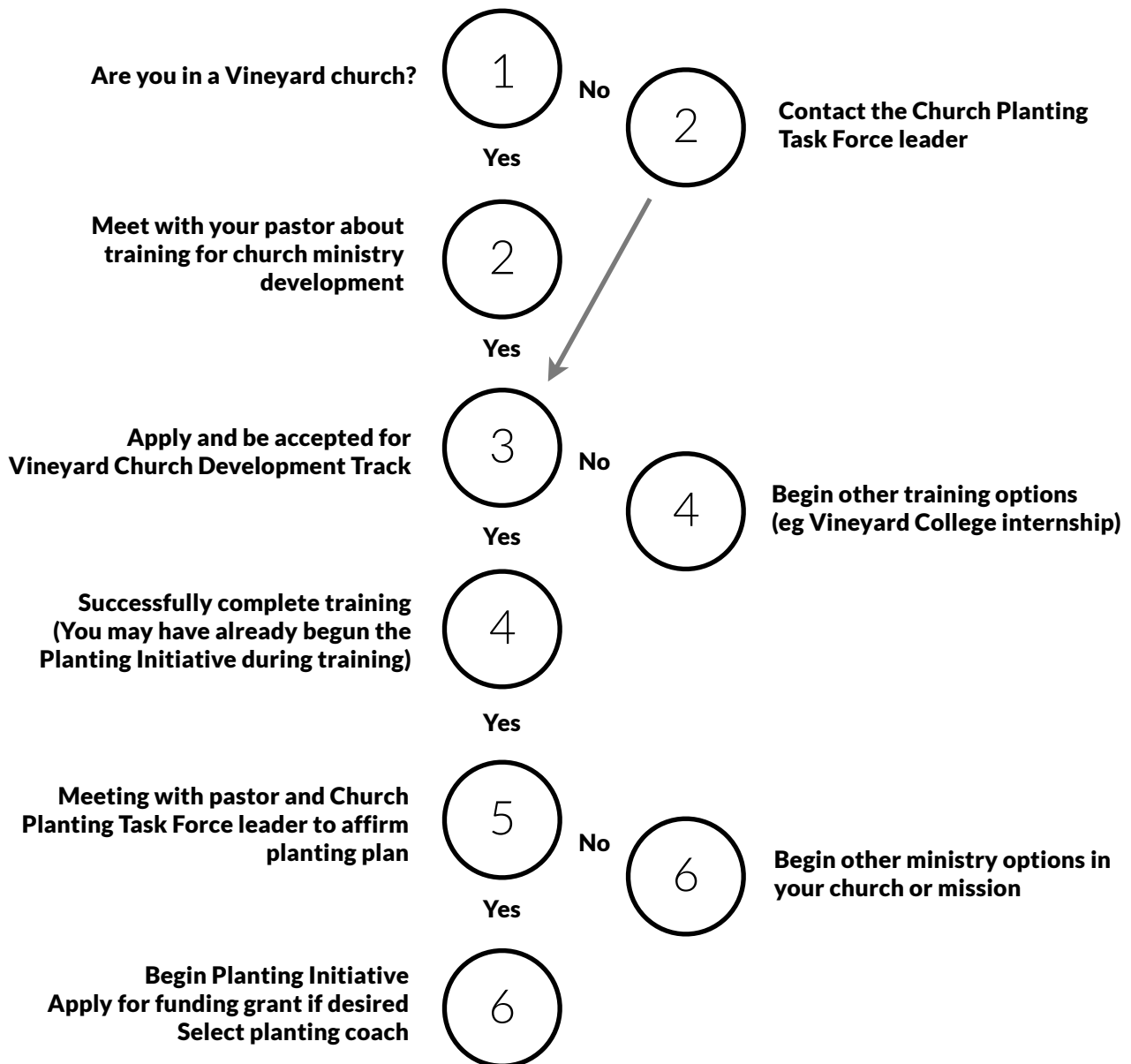
The Vineyard Churches Aotearoa New Zealand (VCANZ) is the reflection of that connection and interdependence we have chosen.

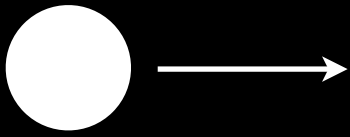
We are a “family of churches with a purpose” – to win and disciple our nation through the planting and development of healthy, growing, biblically accurate and culturally relevant churches, and to serve other nations together.

We are a family in the sense that we share common characteristics – the Vineyard genetic code, a common theology of the Kingdom of God, a common name, care for each member of the family and recognised relationships and structure. We are most like a family of grown children who have left home, married and are starting our own families – yet are still very connected. We are whanau!

VCANZ is not the top of the organisational chart. It is a group of leaders who, as well as leading their own churches, serve the Vineyard movement in New Zealand by giving leadership to what we can accomplish together, assisting local churches with training, with pastoral care of senior leaders and with our shared national and international mission. It is much more a resource centre than a headquarters.

PLANTING PROCESS FLOW





TRACK

Explaining the Vineyard Church Development Track

Who is this for?

Potential church planters who get through the selection process. Doing this course does not mean that you have to plant a church at the end of it or guarantee that you will be able to. Potential church planters will be able to bring possible members of their planting team to the intensives. The worst thing that could happen is that you will find out what you are made for.

Learn

Each month you will receive reading materials and MP3s which have been selected from Vineyard and other Church sources around the world. These resources will relate to the topics covered at your intensives and will have been selected and culled by two people looking for the best information and materials available to prepare you for church planting. Our curriculum is designed to cover all areas of church life that you will need to understand as well as the process of planting.

Discuss

Each month in between the intensives you will meet with other local potential church planters to discuss the reading and MP3s. Lloyd Rankin, Mark Brickell and other leaders will attend these meetings as often as possible, although some may have to be by Skype. However, we will attempt to have a VCANZ leader at them as often as possible.

Cost

\$60 per participant, which includes an entry and exit assessment. If you wish to have an evaluation done by our assessment partners you will have to pay their professional fee. The cost of getting to the intensives will be met by the participants and/or their supporters. Accommodation at the intensives will consist of billets, although attendees may choose to pay for motel accommodation.

Coaching

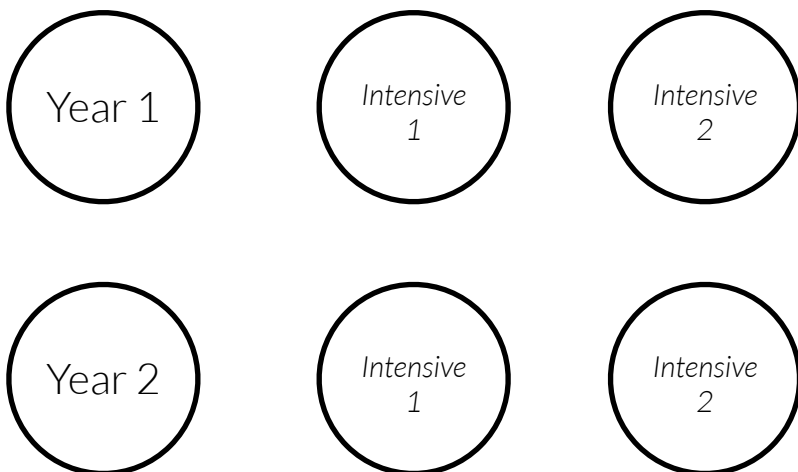
Monthly coaching will continue after you have planted so that you can partner with and benefit from the resources of the wider Vineyard movement in establishing your new church.

Intensives

The Vineyard Church Development Track is a two year process consisting of four weekend training intensives over the two years, based in different types and sizes of churches.

Applicants can join the track at any time, though preferably at an intensive.

The intensives run over a Friday to Sunday when potential and practicing church planters get together with local and international Vineyard leaders for teaching, discussion, worship and ministry.

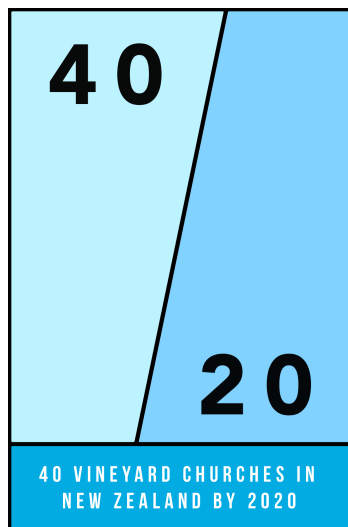


CONTACT

Going further

To apply for the Vineyard Church Development Track,
talk with your pastor or contact the Church Planting
Task Force leader directly at:

churchplanting@vineyard.org.nz



Church Planting Process is part of Vineyard Churches Aotearoa NZ's church planting commitment to see 40 Vineyard churches in New Zealand by 2020.

www.vineyard.org.nz