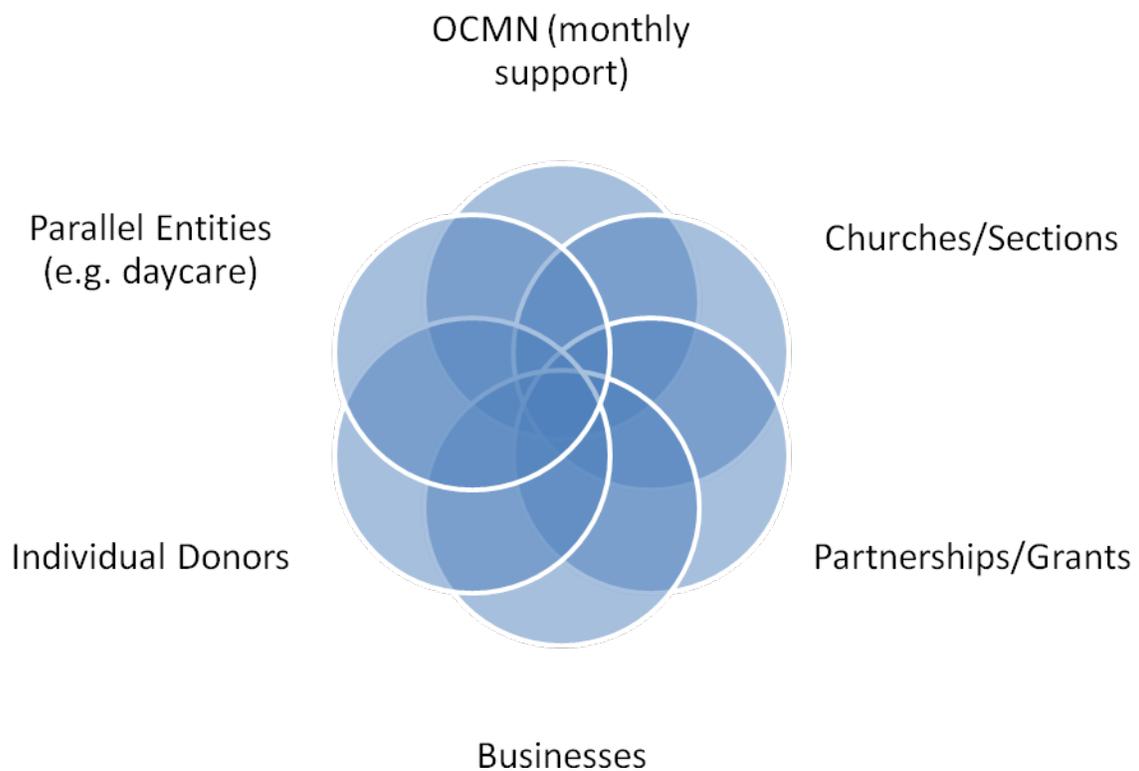# OCMN FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICY

A.   Diversified Model

A financial model that considers a diversity of income streams for each new project is preferred over one that relies too heavily upon support that flows primarily from the Ohio Church Multiplication Network. Six avenues of financing are suggested in the diagram below, but there may be other potential sources:

OCMN (monthly support)

Parallel Entities (e.g. daycare)

Churches/Sections

Individual Donors

Partnerships/Grants

Businesses

Given this diversified model, OCMN will continue to raise as much money as possible and support the leaders of new projects in doing the same. It will also administer its program within the limits of available funds.

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B.   Support Plan

OCMN will consider approved projects on a case-by-case basis in order to develop a **support plan** in conjunction with the pastor of the new church (lead pastor of the parent church in the case of new sites). The purpose of the support plan is to provide, as much as possible, an early and clear picture of a new project's funding opportunities in order to facilitate a healthy start and launch.

A support plan will take into account the project's potential, community needs, vision, cost of living in the area, available OCMN dollars, the pastor's family situation, outside sources of income, and other related factors to determine the **income targets** for the new work. For most projects, the income targets will fall within the following ranges, but exceptions can be considered by the OCMN Committee. Parent churches will be asked to match any OCMN support investment within three years of the site's launch.

After the first year, the OCMN Committee will have the leeway to base support, either partially or completely, on the performance of the new project. Thus, a support plan for a given year might include goals aligned to key planting values (e.g. number of contacts with unchurched individuals, number of community outreaches).

	Year #1	Year #2
OCMN Support (will match up to $15K)	$15K (plus an additional $5K for leader development)	$15K
Parent Church (should match OCMN support)	$0 - 15K	$0 - $15K
Partnerships/Grants	$0 - $30K	-
Relational Gifts (churches, areas, individuals, businesses)	>$15K	-
Parallel Entities	$0 - $30K	$0 - $30K
Tithe and Offering Income	$0 - $50K	$10K - $100K

The benefits of a diversified support plan include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Planters, site pastors, and/or parent church pastors play an active role in casting vision and raising support. This is also a skill they will need throughout the life of the church.

- Broader relational networks can be built and formed early in a church's history.

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- Less OCMN dollars will be needed for each plant allowing for the possibility of more starts each year.

- Timing issues and critical launch schedules can remain a priority even if OCMN funds are not on hand.

- A greater amount of money can potentially be available to projects at launch time if multiple income channels are open and explored. When other critical factors are in place, larger support amounts have been shown to contribute to increased planting success.

In addition to including income targets, the support plan will also contain a **disbursement schedule**. The disbursement schedule will indicate when the OCMN support will start and how much will be paid monthly. It is the intent of OCMN that the financial partnership with the new church be discontinued in three years or less.

In most cases, the leaders of new works will need to complement OCMN support with their own fundraising through **relational gifts** (direct support from churches, areas, individuals, businesses, etc.) prior to launch. This target will be at least $10K as it has been shown that churches tended to be more successful when their leaders were able to cast vision and gain support for their works apart from a sponsoring agency.

Finally, it is the understanding of OCMN that **relational connectedness** is an essential part to the health of new churches in a way that far surpasses the financial benefit that can come as a result of those relationships. In keeping with that philosophy, the support plan will ask the leaders of new works to develop a minimal number of significant relationships with pastors, individuals, businesses, etc. prior to launch, regardless of whether those relationships lead to direct financial support.

C.   Administering Funds

In order to receive support dollars from OCMN, an approved project must also meet the following requirements:

- The project must have a completed and approved support plan on file with OCMN.

- The project must have a completed and approved annual budget on file with OCMN.

- The project must have a completed and approved missions support plan on file with OCMN.

- The project must have completed its incorporation process through the Ohio Ministry Network.

- The project must have established a partner church.

- The project must have established a core team of at least ten adults.

The day-to-day administration of funds will be the responsibility of the lead pastor in keeping with the approved budget. Projects with expenses that exceed budgeted totals by more than 5% should submit a written explanation of variance to the OCMN Director.

A written request for approval should be sought for any unbudgeted purchase in excess of $1K. The OCMN director shall have authority to approve extra expenditures up to $2K and the OCMN committee will have the authority to approve those up to $15K. Unbudgeted expenditures beyond $15K will require the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

Specially designated offerings received by the network office shall be forwarded to new churches with any information provided by the donor, if applicable.

D.   Relationships with Network Churches

The leaders of new projects are permitted to pursue relational connections with and/or raise funds through churches, pastors, and individuals throughout the Ohio Ministry Network given the following courtesy protocol.

- Networks/Areas – Before any contact is made with areas and presbyters, the OCMN director should be notified and he/she will inform the network superintendent and other network leaders.

- Churches/Lead Pastors – Before any contact is made with the lead pastor of a church, the area presbyter should be made aware.

- Staff Pastors/Church Leaders/Congregants – Prior to initiating contact with staff ministers, leaders, or individuals connected with another church, whether in the Ohio Ministry Network or not, it is important that the lead pastor of that church be contacted and that his or her consent be given. In the event that prior relationships existed, it is still important that the lead pastor be made aware of how the individual associated with their congregation might be connected to the new project moving forward. If the consent and blessing of the lead pastor is not given, the planter/site pastor should consult with the OCMN director before proceeding with any plans to contact the proposed person.

E.   Missions and Ministry Giving

OCMN funds are considered grants and not loans. However, it is a value that approved churches and sites develop a culture that willingly and generously supports church multiplication, network ministries, camp ministries, and missions in keeping with network bylaws. It is also essential that new churches initiate strong giving habits early in their history with the understanding that participating in missions giving is a privilege. Therefore, all OCMN churches and sites must agree to comply with the recommendations stated in the bylaws of the Ohio Ministry Network which includes a monthly contribution of 1% of their general fund income to support network ministries and 1% to camp ministries, as well as monthly offerings to support US and world missions. In addition, these churches must agree to a monthly contribution of 1% of their

general fund income to support OCMN in order to help facilitate the multiplication of churches, leaders, and disciples.

In addition to meeting the minimal giving requirements listed above, new churches and sites must submit a **missions support plan** to the OCMN director. This plan will be reviewed with the missions director and must be approved before the new church/site can receive any OCMN funding. The plan should cover a three-year period (two-year period for sites) and include the following information:

- Proposed number of US and World Missionaries that will be hosted
- Proposed method for hosting missionaries (addressing core group, lunch with advisory committee, missions emphasis service, etc.)
- Proposed number of missionaries that will be supported monthly and otherwise
- Proposed strategy for building missions giving and support into the culture of the church and congregation

F. Additional Support

OCMN desires to support the health, effectiveness, and overall growth of new projects and their leaders in every way possible. Some additional support measures available to assist new churches are listed below:

- OCMN will assist new churches and sites in obtaining the church's property-casualty insurance (this may not apply to sites which might be included on the parent church's policy).

- OCMN will develop media (videos, prayer cards, etc.) to assist with the initial fundraising efforts of the new church or site.

- OCMN will provide regional peer-networking that includes ongoing training in best practices associated with effective church multiplication (attendance is required for the lead pastors and site pastors during their church's first year).

- OCMN will cover the initial costs associated with incorporating a new church and process the needed paperwork for the same (this does not apply to sites as they will exist as an entity of the parent church).

- OCMN will assist planters and parent churches in applying for special funds available at network and national levels (e.g. Speed the Light, Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge, Light for the Lost).

G. Partnerships and Loans

It should be noted that the Ohio Ministry Network does not co-sign loans for churches or act as a partner guaranteeing repayment on funding provided by third parties.