

Barnabas Churches¹

The purpose:

To provide encouragement and experiences of unity to churches in their early stages of formation and to help prevent feelings of isolation, while at the same time giving the support church the opportunity to learn and adopt the missional methods of the new churches.

The Method:

1. Publicly mention each other in prayer and announcements.
"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers," Thessalonians 1:2 (ESV)
2. Share joys and concerns as stages of growth are reached, or challenges are encountered.
"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15 (ESV)
3. Encourage and plan for regular visits of members of the supporting congregation to worship and events of the church in formation, and to engage in mutual mission and fellowship when possible.
"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you." Philippians 2:19 (ESV)
4. Develop a culture of Kingdom unity between the members and especially among the pastors and elders.
"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20–21 (ESV)
5. Be advocates for planting new congregations through public witness, prayer, and support of efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky in church multiplication.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:21 (ESV)

¹ **Barnabas** "son of encouragement" (RSV, NIV).

It was Barnabas who brought Paul, after his conversion, to the apostles at Jerusalem (Acts 9:27), and it was he who was sent to the newly founded church at Antioch (Syria) (11:22). His successful ministry among the relocated Christians in that city prompted him to secure Paul's assistance, and together they taught many people (vv. 25–26). After a while they brought the money collected in Antioch to the poor at Jerusalem (vv. 29–30).



Act of Covenant

We the servants of Jesus Christ found in the congregations of
_____ (*established church*) and
_____ (*church in formation*)
decide today _____, to strengthen and establish the Kingdom of
God in our respective congregations by the five methods stated above for the period
of one year, in faith that “the God of all grace, who has called us to his eternal glory in
Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us.”

_____ (*established church pastor*)

_____ (*established church moderator*)

_____ (*church in formation pastor*)

_____ (*church in formation moderator/leader*)

New Church Ministry Team, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky