

Suggestions for Finding UPG Church Planters “Hiding” in Your Congregation

Strategic engagement for many churches revolves around seeing the Church of Jesus Christ planted among those who are least reached. But few people naturally self-identify as a pioneer church planter. How can your church recognize potential candidates?

1. **Who is effectively sharing their faith in their current context?** Who are the people in your church who love to talk to others about Jesus? Who has a natural gift of building friendship bridges that open doors for conversations about spiritual things? Consider people of all ages.
2. **Who has an entrepreneurial bent?** Who in your church has launched a business or figured out how to meet a particular need in your community or church?
3. **Who enjoys cross-cultural relationships?** Who goes to ethnic restaurants and makes long-term friends with the owner? Who just naturally gravitates to the international students in class or the internationals in their neighborhood? Who has sponsored a refugee family or helped with ESL classes? Who keeps in touch with friends they made on a missions trip, even years after the initial contact?
4. **Who works in a vocation or ministry that could bridge into a new community?** This might be anything from physical therapy to teaching ESL to community development. Ask those on the field what types of vocations might be most effective.