

Administrative Manual for Church Planters (Excerpts)

To Our Courageous Church Planters,¹

A wise pastor named Bill Hull once said:

“Telling people what to do without providing the means to do it is cruel and defrauding. It creates spiritual schizophrenia, Christians who are experts on what they are not experiencing.”²

Sovereign Grace Ministries exists to plant churches for God’s glory. This is a noble and thoroughly biblical goal, but it is a vain pursuit if we never move from intention to application by providing the means to do it. The Great Commission will be fulfilled, not by leaders who are experts at what they are not experiencing, but by churches that equip and apply.

This manual is another installment in our commitment to provide “the means to do it” for the heroes who plant churches. Church planting doesn’t begin with packed churches and parking problems; it springs from the gritty realities of budgets and bylaws, incorporation and insurance, and a host of other essentials that must be accomplished with the highest levels of integrity and excellence. After all, new churches represent the future of God’s work on the earth. Organizing them for strength demands our best. This resource is a vital step in that direction.

The *Administrative Manual for Church Planters* is designed to offer Sovereign Grace church planters our best insights from 25 years of church planting. Included are the organizational ideas and recommendations that emerge from our study, our successes, and our failures. The resource is divided into five sections:

- Section 1: The Church’s Initial Budget
- Section 2: The Process of Incorporation
- Section 3: Critical Organization Start-Up Items
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This manual, and the many other forms of support that Sovereign Grace Ministries provides to church planters, is created to sidestep the schizophrenia of a stalled commission by “providing the means to do it.” Take plenty of time to read it and then contact Sovereign Grace with any questions you may have. Because serving church planters, and making you a success for God’s glory, is one of the main reasons for our existence.

May God bless your sacrifices for his glory!

On behalf of the leadership team,



Dave Harvey

¹ Excerpted from Sovereign Grace Ministries’ *Administrative Manual for Church Planters*. © 2007 Sovereign Grace Ministries.

² Bill Hull, *The Disciple Making Pastor* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1988) p 96

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