HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL

Church Plant Involvement Guide

A proposed 1689 Reformed Baptist church in the Des Moines metropolitan area

Harvest Bible Chapel Des Moines is prayerfully exploring the establishment of another faithful local church. We invite you to learn about the work, pray with us, and consider how you might participate. You can support the plant whether or not you are able to join its core team.

Why Church Planting

Harvest began as a church plant in 2013. By God's grace, it has become a local church where people are being saved, discipled, and growing in their love for Christ. Church planting continues that biblical pattern as established churches send qualified leaders and committed believers to proclaim the gospel, gather disciples, appoint elders, and establish new congregations.

Our prayer is that God would raise up a church marked by sound belief and diligent practice, for the glory of Jesus Christ.

The Church We Hope to Establish

- **Governed by Scripture.** The Bible will direct doctrine, worship, church order, and daily obedience.
- **Confessionally Reformed Baptist.** Our doctrinal standard will be the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689, with any stated exceptions identified.
- **Centered on the ordinary means of grace.** Faithful preaching, prayer, baptism, and the Lord's Supper will shape our life together.
- **Committed to life together.** Meaningful membership, discipleship, hospitality, mutual care, and biblical discipline will mark our community.
- **Shepherded under Christ.** Qualified elders oversee, deacons serve, and the congregation is meaningfully engaged.
- **Eager to make disciples.** We will proclaim Christ, baptize believers, teach obedience, and seek to plant and strengthen other churches.

Join Our Monthly Meetings

Both gatherings are excellent ways to get involved and support the plant. Come to learn, pray, and build relationships as we seek the Lord together.

When	Gathering
1st Sunday each month	**Teaching and Discussion** We will teach through the 1689 Confession of Faith, consider its biblical foundations, and discuss how those biblical doctrines shape church life.
3rd Sunday each month	**Prayer Meeting** Join us in thanksgiving and prayer for gospel fruit, the core team, qualified leaders, and God's direction and provision.

See the Church Plant Concept webpage for meeting details, times, and updates.

Support the Work and Consider Your Part

You can participate in meaningful ways throughout this season of prayer and preparation. Start with opportunities that fit your household, and stay open to how the Lord may direct you to get more involved!

Ways to Support and Stay Connected

- **Pray regularly.** Ask God to save the lost, strengthen Harvest's elders, prepare Frasier and his family, raise up qualified leaders, and grow a holy and unified core team. Pray for wisdom on location and resources, and for patience in his timing.
- **Learn and encourage.** Attend the monthly teaching and prayer meetings, receive updates, and encourage those preparing for the work.
- **Spread the word.** Share the church plant concept with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and anyone else who may be interested.
- **Offer practical help.** Let us know about gifts, skills, hospitality, or resources you could offer as needs arise. Serve alongside others as opportunities develop.
- **Consider financial support.** As Harvest presents specific needs and approved giving opportunities, prayerfully consider contributing.
- **Consider future attendance or membership.** Stay connected as the location and plans become clearer. Even if you cannot commit to being on the core team, you may later attend public worship and explore membership through the church's ordinary process.

Consider Joining the Core Team

The core team will help establish the church through a sustained commitment to its doctrine, relationships, evangelism, and shared life. We are seeking believers and families who love Christ and his church, are teachable and faithful, and are willing to serve patiently and sacrificially.

Core team members should substantially agree with the proposed confession, constitution, and ministry philosophy, and support the work under Harvest's elders. Together, we would:

- Gather regularly for teaching, prayer, fellowship, and preparation.
- Study the 1689 Confession and the proposed church documents.
- Practice hospitality, mutual care, discipleship, and evangelism.
- Give and use our gifts to meet practical needs as the work develops.

Oversight, Location, and Timing

Harvest's elders will oversee the work through preparation and launch. A location has not yet been selected. We hope to develop the core team and settle the location during 2027, with Lord's Day worship beginning between 2028 and 2030, as the Lord provides qualified leadership, unity, people, and resources.

Take a Next Step

Scan the code to read the fuller concept and submit the interest form. Speak with Frasier or a Harvest elder about supporting the work or exploring the core team. Expressing interest begins the conversation!

harvestdesmoines.org/church-plant-concept
info@harvestdesmoines.org

Reformed Baptist Doctrine

*A **brief** guide to the convictions of the proposed church plant*

We seek to uphold the biblical truths recovered and articulated during the Protestant Reformation. These convictions shape our worship, our life together, and our proclamation of Christ.

The Five Solas

We receive Scripture alone as our final authority and confess salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to God's glory alone.

Sola Scriptura / Sola Gratia / Sola Fide / Solus Christus / Soli Deo Gloria

Covenant Theology and Biblical Theology

Scripture unfolds God's one plan of redemption, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We understand this through the Covenant of Redemption (the Father's and Son's eternal agreement for our salvation), the Covenant of Works (life promised to Adam upon perfect obedience), and the Covenant of Grace (salvation through faith in Christ).

Calvinistic Convictions

God rules over all things and sovereignly saves sinners through Jesus Christ. Salvation rests on His gracious initiative. We freely proclaim the gospel to all, calling everyone to repent and believe.

The Law and the Gospel

God's moral law reveals His will, exposes our sin, and guides our obedience. The gospel announces forgiveness and life through Jesus Christ. By His Spirit, God enables believers to obey Him with gratitude.

The Christian Sabbath

The fourth commandment remains morally binding. We observe Sunday, the Lord's Day, as the Christian Sabbath, setting it apart for worship and holy rest, with works of necessity and mercy.

Regulative Principle of Worship and the Ordinary Means of Grace

The regulative principle of worship means that God tells us in Scripture how He is to be worshiped. We seek to include the elements He commands and depend on His appointed means of grace: the Word, prayer, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Notes and Questions

Baptist and Confessional Distinctives

Believers' baptism

We baptize disciples who credibly profess repentance and faith in Christ by immersion in water. Baptism is a public sign of union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and a means of grace through which God strengthens the believer and edifies the congregation.

The Lord's Supper

We remember His sacrifice and, by faith, enjoy true spiritual communion with Christ. This ordinance is for believers and nourishes our faith and fellowship together.

The Membership of the Church

Membership is for those who, as far as the church can discern, are regenerate and have a credible profession of faith and repentance. Members commit themselves to worship, discipleship, mutual care, and biblical accountability.

The Government of the Church

Each local church is governed under Christ without an external church hierarchy, while pursuing fellowship and partnership with other congregations.

Local churches are to be Christ-ruled, Elder-led, Deacon-served, and Congregationally-engaged.

A Confessional Church

We intend to adopt the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith as our doctrinal confession. Scripture remains our final authority; the confession makes our understanding of its teaching public and clear.

You can read the confession and find meeting details on the Church Plant Concept webpage. Modern-English copies of the confession are also available from Founders Ministries for about $6.

harvestdesmoines.org/church-plant-concept

Learning Together

If these terms are new to you, you are welcome to come to our monthly meetings, ask questions, and learn with us. No prior study of the confession is needed to attend! We desire to grow together in our knowledge of Scripture and obedience to Christ.

Monthly Meetings Example Agendas

1st Sunday Each Month Teaching Reformed Baptist doctrine		3rd Sunday Each Month Prayer Emphasis + Teaching	
5 mins	Welcome, Scripture Reading & Opening Prayer	5-10 mins	Welcome, Scripture Reading & Opening Instructions
20-25 mins	Teaching Time	20-25 mins	Guided prayer time
5-10 mins	Q&A and Discussion Time	10-15 mins	Teaching / Q&A time
10-15 mins	Church planting tasks/deliverables	5-10 mins	Church planting tasks/deliverables and closing prayer
5-10 mins	Closing prayer time		