



# Steps for Assessment

Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ

We are actively looking for people interested in starting new churches in this Conference. We are open to many different models of church start, but ask that all proposals go through an assessment and planning process, so that we can consider how best to encourage, mentor, and otherwise assist the new church planter or planting team.

For this reason, we request all who are interested in seeking Conference assistance in starting a new church begin by completing the following steps for assessment of your personal gifts for new church development. These tools help us determine if a person considering starting a new church has the skill, knowledge, and talent necessary for staff and Board support as part of the Board's Strategic Plan for Church Development. These exercises are not intended to discern a person's call to ministry, or to encourage or discourage them from starting a new church. We ask that you complete the first four steps in order. The other steps may be completed in any order, but must all be completed and submitted to the Conference office before the project can be eligible for Board or staff support.

## Assessment Steps:

1. Gallup On-Line Interview, \$100. Call 1-866-822-8224 Ext. 3814 for access code and password
2. Written Interview - a worksheet which asks you to comment on your personal history and experience in ministry
3. iChange and iLead surveys from Link2Lead.com. Call Conference office for access code and password
4. Personal follow-up interview with Conference Minister and/or Associate for Church Development & Renewal. For Hispanic church starts, interview with Conference consultant for Hispanic church development
5. VHS tape or DVD of a sermon delivered in the past 5 years
6. A copy of the budget for the past 5 years from the most recent you have served, if applicable
7. Either a UCC Profile or a Statement of Consent (available from Conference Office) so that we can do background checking, credit checks, etc.
8. Status of Ministerial Standing, if any: UCC License, Ordination, Privilege of Call, or in care for authorized ministry in the UCC

Once the above steps are completed, Conference staff will review the results with you, and if the assessment is encouraging, consult with you to mutually select a location and target population for your new church start. If this vision appears to be within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Church Development, the Conference Board will then interview you and decide if they will offer you a call to this ministry. Your call will be subject to the completion of any specific additional education indicated by your assessment, and also subject to completion of a written Ministry Plan for the new church start. Staff will design this additional education with you, and also assist you in preparing your Ministry Plan. Your Ministry Plan is then subsequently presented to the Conference Board for approval, and with that approval, you are ready to start the new church. See "Preparing to Start a New Church" for more details of this process.

If you have any questions about these assessment exercises, contact  
Gary Roberts at the Conference Office (626-798-8082, ext 18) or at [roberts@scnuc.org](mailto:roberts@scnuc.org).

