

WANTED: Church Planter

to partner in Renewing Rural Iowa.

RENEWING RURAL IOWA



Vision: Renewing Rural Iowa by planting churches that empower their communities by transforming lives and relationships through a vital connection with Jesus.



Rural Iowa Pros: Rural Iowa produces! #1 State since 1994 in corn production. #2 State in soybean production. #1 State in Pork production, Iowa raises 1/3 of the nation's pigs. #2 State for wind energy production. Housing is more affordable. Crime is lower. Education is strong with students in rural schools having opportunities to experience a variety of activities. Traffic jams are non-existent.



Rural Iowa Challenges: With efficiency gains in production, many rural areas have slowly been declining in population. Meth, alcohol, and other drug abuse have taken a toll. Family breakdown is taking a toll. Lack of affordable housing for low-income people.



Need for Renewal: Many rural Iowa churches are in decline—not embracing changes needed to reach new generations. They serve as living history museums, shackled by buildings and people focused on what has been. Many are near closing if they have not already closed. They are not embracing Jesus' mission to produce followers for the future. There remains a harvest of many people in rural Iowa who need the hope, direction, fulfillment, and purpose Jesus offers.



Objective: Plant churches in rural Iowa towns with populations under 5,000 that host an active consolidated public school. (Schools are vital community centers in rural Iowa and could serve as good places to start meetings as everyone in the district owns the school and feels comfortable entering.)

Responsibilities

- Participate in a church planter assessment paid for by the [North American Baptist Conference \(NAB\)](#)
- Lead through a prayerful process of discovery and discernment to seek out where God would want to plant the next church.
- Establish a vision agreement with NAB and [Upper Mississippi Region \(UMR\)](#)
- Fundraise a portion of your salary while starting and/or serve bi-vocationally
- Live and work in the mission area of the plant
- Cast the vision for the new congregation
- Build relationships with people in the mission area
- Recruit a launch team and refine a church plant strategy
- Recruit and develop volunteers to serve in ministry
- Discern opportunities to advance the mission
- Plan and lead worship services
- Raise support for the ministry
- Oversee and manage finances and property related to the church plant
- Work with UMR to develop church governance plan
- Participate in UMR and NAB gatherings
- Cooperate to plant more NAB churches in the UMR

Qualifications

- 1) Spiritual vitality and maturity
- 2) Ability to communicate clearly (Bachelor's Degree or higher preferred)
- 3) Love for people
- 4) Model healthy relationships and biblical marriage convictions
- 5) Call to rural Iowa life and rural Iowa people
- 6) History of godly leadership
- 7) History of personal evangelism
- 8) Support the [North American Baptist Statement of Beliefs and Statement on Marriage](#)
- 9) Commitment to planting a church that will help plant future churches

Support Offered

- Guidance through mentoring and coaching from an experienced coach
- Support of other UMR like-minded churches, pastors and a regional minister
- Support with administration and establishing constitution and by laws
- Relocation expenses reimbursed (up to \$10,000) from Steamboat Rock Baptist Church
- Financial Support of up to \$75,000 over two-three years from Steamboat Rock Baptist Church, UMR, and NAB combined tied to agreed milestones toward your vision
- Opportunity to share your vision, recruit volunteers, team members and raise financial support from members of Steamboat Rock Baptist Church and other UMR congregations

Interested? If God is stirring you, please contact Dan Andrews, Regional Minister of the Upper Mississippi Region
Email: Dan@nab-umr.org Phone: (319) 936-7420