

Small Town USA

Go where the humans are.

In the Vineyard, we believe that everyone gets to participate in church multiplication—no matter the size of their church or town. Smaller churches can often find it difficult to participate in church multiplication for a number of reasons. Pastors and church leaders are often concerned about not having enough of the resources needed to do it effectively. The time, energy, people, and financial commitments can seem overwhelming and, for some, make planting churches seem impossible. But we serve a God of the impossible. This shapes our vision: Every church a parent. Every church a partner. Everyone gets to play.

PARTNERSHIP BEGINNINGS

The Small Town Partnership was birthed in the early stages of Vineyard USA's vision for 750 new Vineyard churches. During a coffee shop meeting where Michael Gatlin, Multiply Vineyard National Coordinator, shared the vision with a handful of pastors Joel Seymour simply stated, "The only way my area and my church can participate in this is if the Vineyard starts planting in small towns." Out of that conversation came our first Small Town Vineyard conference in April 2012. Since then our work with Small Town USA has grown to include trainings for area meetings, the establishment of church planting triads, six annual webinars, and regular blog posts all with the emphasis of planting Vineyards in small towns and rural America. We are here to encourage, resource, and support planting Vineyard churches in small towns all over the USA.

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Team of the partnership includes Joel Seymour (Pastor, Lancaster Vineyard, Lancaster, OH), Ross Nelson (Pastor, Northwoods Vineyard, Tomahawk, WI) and Luke Geraty (Pastor, Red Bluff in Red Bluff, CA). They are not theoreticians but practitioners when it comes to small town pastoring and planting. Each has pastored or planted in towns of 5,000 or less. They are committed to equip churches who make disciple making disciples who in turn form churches in small towns.

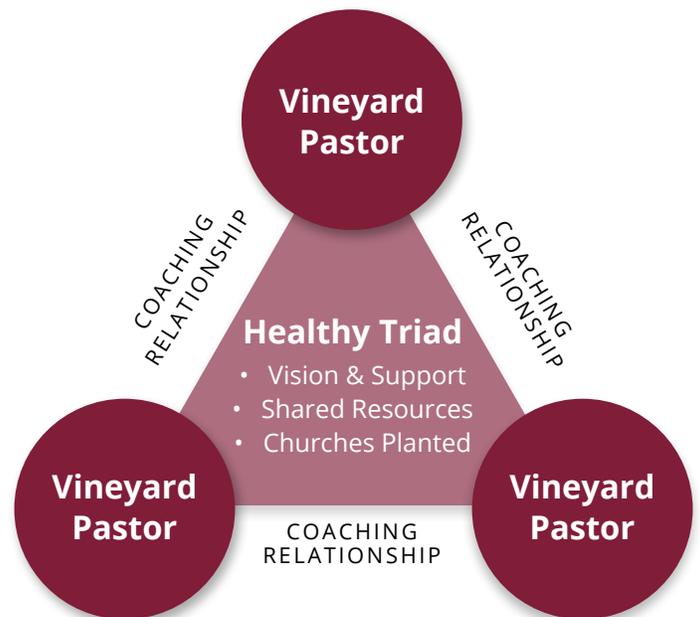
TO GET INVOLVED

- **Reciprocal Relationships** We get to know you and you get to know us. This can be done through the blog on the Multiply Vineyard website. Tune into our bi-monthly webinars or contact us directly: smalltown@multiplyvineyard.org.
- **Receive Training** Attend scheduled sessions in your Region, join us at Small Town USA conferences, take in our bi-monthly webinars or tap into our blogs.

- **Start a triad** Enlist two other Vineyards in your area with the intent of targeting plants in small towns. Practically speaking this is the best place to start with the partnership.
- **Quarterly Coaching** Be active in these sessions with other triads.
- **Specific Resources** Take in specialty areas designed to reach small towns such as bi-vocational pastoring, different outreach ideas, selecting a specific church model such as a site, discipleship process, leadership development and others.

IN-DEPTH ON TRIADS

What can small Vineyard churches that feel under-resourced do in order to participate in planting churches? We believe we have a great solution: Church Planting Triads (CPT). The idea behind this resource is that we can do more together than we can on our own.



Go where the humans are.

FINDING THE RIGHT PARTNERS

The key to forming a CPT is finding the right people to work with because these triads are all about relationship! Are there other pastors/leaders in your area that you already work with or can see yourself connecting with?

Once you've identified people who share a common passion to make disciples, plant churches, and who are interested in working alongside others, the three of you will need to spend time prayerfully discerning the right location to focus your efforts. By praying together and asking the Holy Spirit for direction, the triad can also discuss other contributing factors related to strategic planning, such as the opportunities of certain locations and the available resources.

THE CATALYST OF COACHING

Coaching is fast becoming one of the most important tools available to Vineyard leaders. What is coaching? Coaching is a tested method of coming alongside someone to encourage them, help them process ideas by asking them powerful questions, and to help them identify where God is at work in their life. Multiply Vineyard offers coaching and coaching training from national experts to all Vineyard pastors. Take advantage of these resources and get your triad trained. Once trained in coaching, CPT's are exponentially more effective to encourage each other as well as strategically plan toward planting a church in a specific location.

If you know two other pastors/leaders and would be willing to meet with them once a month for an hour and a half to work toward planting churches, you could be in a CPT! These meetings do not need to be in person either. Many of the triads that are currently working have their meetings using online meeting technology that the Smalltown USA partnership will offer to you for free.

A REAL WORLD EXAMPLE

Three small town pastors in Northern Wisconsin had a desire to plant churches but struggled to move forward on their own. Vineyard pastors Luke Geraty, Michael Houle, and Ross Nelson started a Church Planting Triad to strategically work together to plant churches in the northern part of their state. As their triad met, prayed, and strategically planned, their goals began to take shape. In fact, they began to identify that between their three respective churches, they had potential church planters, finances, and outreach volunteers that made their goals much closer to becoming a reality!

Currently their triad has several potential church plants being developed in a number of cities in Northern Wisconsin. In addition to working together to plant these churches by sharing resources, all three of them value the added bonus of forming deeper relationships with each other.

5 STEPS TO START A TRIAD

- 1. Identify the right people.** These can be key relationships you already have or can be relationships built specifically for the partnership. The important thing is that there is a commitment to meet monthly and to work together to plant churches.
- 2. Connect with the Small Town USA specialists.** One of our goals is to equip, empower, and resource church planters heading into rural communities. This includes helping create and develop Church Planting Triads. We would love to help your CPT, either by developing written resources, webinars, or more. Email us at smalltown@multiplyvineyard.org
- 3. Get trained as a Coach.** Resources are available from Multiply Vineyard and the Small town USA partnership to provide you with the training for impactful and effective coaching. Go to: multiplyvineyard.org/coaching for more information.
- 4. Meet monthly.** Once a month the triad should meet in order to pray, discuss, and plan toward church planting. We recommend that one of the three functions as the "point person" in order to (1) schedule and set the meetings and (2) keep the triad on track. These meetings can be live in person or can be done through a variety of online meeting technologies.
- 5. Work together toward your shared common vision.** As you meet, you'll identify future church planters, develop strategies, and recognize ministry opportunities for the location(s) you've targeted. The responsibilities and resources are shared responsibilities and resources, so it's important that everyone contributes what they can in the areas that they are able.

THE SMALL TOWN USA PARTNERSHIP

smalltown@multiplyvineyard.org
multiplyvineyard.org/small-town

multiplyvineyard™

WEB: multiplyvineyard.org
FORUM: multiplyvineyard.org/forums
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/MultiplyVineyardUSA](https://www.facebook.com/MultiplyVineyardUSA)
TWITTER: @vinchurchplant

EMAIL: office@multiplyvineyard.org
PHONE: 218-525-3462
ADDRESS: 1533 W. Arrowhead Rd. Duluth, MN 55811

Experiencing God. Living the Kingdom. Multiplying Churches. Changing the World.