

WHEN LEAD PASTORS LEAVE THEIR CHURCH

The current Acts 29 Covenant is between the Network and the church, rather than just the lead pastor or church planter. This creates a certain tension when the individual who has been assessed, and is therefore a member of Acts 29, leaves his church. What is his status in relation to the Network? What is the status of the church he has left in relation to the Network? The following addresses these questions by stating a clear policy.

Because Acts 29 is a church planting network, continued membership of Acts 29 is open only to those in leadership of church-planting churches. In all of the following cases, responsibility for overseeing the process rests with the relevant Network & Regional Directors.

Lead Pastor

- 1) If the lead pastor, in good standing, is leaving to plant, his status within Acts 29 will be unchanged.
- 2) If the lead pastor, in good standing, is leaving to lead an Acts 29 church, his status within Acts 29 will be unchanged.
- 3) If the lead pastor, in good standing, is leaving to join the staff of an Acts 29 church, but not as lead pastor, his status within Acts 29 will be at the discretion of the church, in agreement with Acts 29.
- 4) If the lead pastor, in good standing, is leaving to lead an established church that is not affiliated to Acts 29, he will be allowed to remain in Acts 29 for 2 years, with a view to leading the church into full membership within that time.
- 5) If, for whatever reason, the established church he leads chooses not to seek membership, the lead pastor will resign from the network, unless extenuating circumstances apply as recognized by Acts 29.

Member Church

- 1) If the lead pastor leaves, the member church will remain within the Network for a 2 year period, unless the continuing leadership desire to disassociate.
- 2) If the man appointed to the role of lead pastor is an existing Acts 29 member, the status of the church will be unchanged.
- 3) If the man appointed to the role of lead pastor is not an existing Acts 29 member, he will be required to go through Acts 29 Assessment. Which will result in either a Recommended or Recommended with conditions outcome, to ensure that church membership status is maintained.
- 4) If the man appointed to the role of lead pastor does not receive either a Recommended or Recommended with Conditions, the church will be removed from member status, unless extenuating circumstances apply as recognized by Acts 29.
- 5) If there has been no appointment within the 2 year period, the church will be removed from member status, unless extenuating circumstances apply as recognized by Acts 29.