

TRUE LIFE CHURCH

Vision

True Life Church was planted in 2013 in the heart of Denver, Colorado. Jesus says he came to give life and life to the full. Our church started with the belief that this is actually true and people can actually experience this. We wanted to design everything we do around the belief that life is found in Jesus. Our vision has been to create a community that brings this life to people. Since we started we have seen many people who were done with church come back to Jesus. We have seen people who grew up in the church their whole life discover something deeper. We have seen other Christians stop living only for themselves and begin to devote their life to this mission as well. We are seeing Jesus build his church in this city.

Jesus calls his followers to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and build his church, so we're committed to church planting in partnership with Acts 29. With secularism on the rise, churches closing, and those who are not Christians in desperate need of the Gospel, there is a great need for healthy churches all over the world and in our region. Annually in America, about 4,000 churches close their doors, 4,500 church are planted, and an additional 2,000 new churches are needed just to keep up with population growth. This residency program will provide the opportunity for the pastors, elders, and congregation to be directly involved in training, resourcing, and supporting a new church in our region or elsewhere.

Residency Goal

To host, train, and invest in a pastor, so that he might be equipped to raise up leaders, plant a church, and make disciples.

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Candidate Profile

Alignment: We'll look for alignment in the following 6 key areas

1. Confession

- a. Someone who joyfully affirms True Life Church's vision, mission, and Statement of Faith.
- b. Someone who joyfully affirms the values, doctrine, organization of Acts 29

2. Character

- a. Someone who passionately loves Christ and pursues a deepening relationship with Him through His Word, His Spirit, and His people.
- b. Someone mature in his relationship with Christ and dedicated to his wife and family (if applicable).
- c. Someone who loves people and desires to see them come to know Jesus personally and follow Jesus faithfully.
- d. Someone who is passionate about the gospel spreading through church planting around the globe. Someone who is humble, teachable, and passionate about personal, professional, and spiritual development.

3. Capacity

- a. Able to devote the necessary time and energy to the residency.

4. Competence

- a. Someone who has formal theological training through a Bible college or Seminary, and is looking for hands on ministry experience, including preaching, teaching, pastoral counseling, and leadership development.
- b. The candidate will engage in self-assessment, dialogue, and evaluation on each of the Acts 29 Competencies for church planting: Spiritual Vitality, Theological Clarity, Conviction & Commendation, Marriage, Relationships, Leadership, Maturity, Missional Lifestyle, Disciple Making, Ability to Teach, Entrepreneurial Aptitude.
- c. Equipped with gifting needed for church planting. Someone with an entrepreneurial spirit. Someone with administrative and executive skills. Someone who is willing to take on many of the behind-the-scenes administrative tasks involved in the operation of the church.

5. Chemistry

- a. Healthy interpersonal skills, connects well with TL pastors and leaders.

6. Culture

- a. Fits with culture of TL and the local community.

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The Logistics

1. **Commitment:** The commitment will typically be 18-36 months depending on the planter's previous experience. The residency program could be anywhere from 20-40 hours a week, depending on how many additional work hours are needed outside the church. At the conclusion of the residency, the ideal candidate would take on either the role of Church Planting Partner or a Pastor at True Life Church depending on the gifting of the candidate and the needs of the church at that time.
2. **Funding:** The resident will be paid \$25,000 a year. The resident should be prepared to fundraise to supplement his income during the residency and carry over this funding into the church plant. Or the Resident may work bi-vocationally (ideally withing the Denver community). Reliant ministry is a recommended resource for support-raising.
3. **Evaluation:** In addition to ongoing informal feedback, there will be a formal ministry evaluation by the elders after the first 3 months and at regular 6-month intervals from the start date. These evaluations will be used to sharpen the resident and be sure there is alignment as the residency continues.
4. **Outcome:** Regardless of the outcome of the residency, we anticipate numerous blessings both for the resident and the local church. Various outcomes are possible. The resident could be approved and sent-out to plant from True Life Church with Acts 29, the resident could decide to pursue another avenue of pastoral ministry, or the church and resident could decide together not to pursue church planting as a next step.

Overview of the Residency

The True Life Residency is designed to form you in all the Acts 29 Competencies for Church Planting. We will help you grow in heart, head, and hands.

While in some sense these phases have a linear progression there is overlap between them as well and some will be worked on simultaneously. These are a sampling of training and activities but shouldn't be thought to be exhaustive or exact.

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Phase 1: Personal Development

- **Devotional Life:**
 - Pray regularly for yourself, family, current ministry, and future church plant. Spend daily time in the Word for personal nourishment.
- **Congregation:**
 - Invest in the life of the church, getting to know the people and the culture. Be active in Sunday worship and a Community Group.
- **Accountability:**
 - Meet regularly with the pastor and other leaders for relationship building, ministry evaluation, personal encouragement, and to assess calling.
- **Network Connection:**
 - Meet with various A29 pastors, attend various events for learning.
- **Training:**
 - Work through our Elder Training Course, leadership training and other assigned courses. Work through the videos, reading, and self-assessment for each of the Acts 29 Church Planting Competencies. Read and report on assigned books in the areas of personal spirituality, theology, church leadership, and church planting.
- **Education:**
 - Depending on the planter's previous theological education, the resident may be asked to complete additional theological education through a seminary or other online avenue.

Phase 2: Ministry Development

- **Word Ministry Development**
 - Teach: Work through teaching training and teach in various contexts
 - Preach: Work through preaching training and evaluation and preach Sundays and at partner local churches
 - Lead: Participate in weekly worship services through call to worship, announcements, prayer, etc.
 - Plan: Lay-out a 12-week sermon series including series title and summary and weekly titles and summaries.
- **Relationship Ministry Development**
 - Community Group: Attend and lead a Community Group
 - Counseling: Receive counseling training and sit-in on and work through counseling sessions.
 - Discipleship: Meet regularly with identified people for discipleship and encouragement.
 - Evangelism: Identify a specific area of involvement in the local community to build relationships, serve the community, and spread the Gospel.

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- **Strategic Ministry Development**
 - Collaborate: Attend weekly staff meetings and monthly leadership meeting. Facilitate 1 leadership meeting a year.
 - Coordinate: Facilitate ministry opportunities in various areas including things such as: Children's, Outreach, New initiatives, Mercy, Sunday Operations, Communications, This will include overseeing a team of ministry volunteers.
 - Plan: Develop and write out a strategy for identifying, recruiting, training, and empowering leaders in the church at all levels (i.e. small group leaders, ministry coordinators, deacons, elders, etc.).

Phase 3: Planting Preparation

- **Target Area**
 - Identify the target location for the church plant, meet with church and community leaders, and learn about the area.
- **Vision:**
 - Build out a fully designed prospectus - including why a new church is needed, vision for the church, strategy for planting, and projected timeline.
- **Context Evaluation:**
 - Work through the unique culture and context of your target area. Consider how the experience you gained in your ministry development will need to be adapted and adjusted to fit the context of your target area.
- **Assessment:**
 - Complete the Acts 29 assessment process and work toward fulfilling any assigned conditions.
- **Launch Team:**
 - Engage a strategy to develop a launch team, such as establishing small group meeting in the target area (if in the local region). Plan out what types of leaders and skill sets will be needed on a successful launch team. Cast vision and sow seeds with targeted people in the congregation and beyond that might be part of a launch team. Establish a timeline for crucial steps, such as: launch meetings, leadership development, public launch, church membership, etc.
- **Sending:**
 - Upon successful completion of the residency, approval through Acts 29 assessment, and the approval of the TL elders, the resident will be ordained and sent-out to plant a church.

Phase 4: Partnership & Follow-Up

- **Partnership:**
 - If the resident is sent-out to plant with True Life, a mutually agreed upon follow-up plan will be developed for ongoing financial support, ministry oversight, and accountability.
- **Follow-Up:**
 - If the resident is not immediately planting a church, a mutually agreed upon follow-up plan will be developed to maintain a beneficial relationship.

About The Lead Pastor Overseeing the Residency

While a brief overview can't give you everything we believe it's important for you to have a picture of who will be mainly responsible for overseeing your residency.

Pastor Caleb and his wife Sara moved to Denver from Seattle in 2012. Caleb has been in ministry since 2004 serving in a variety of roles before planting True Life. He completed a church planting residency with Fellowship Associates. He has an MA in Missional Leadership and an MA in Counseling from Westminster Seminary, and is completing a D-min in cultural apologetics. He serves the Acts 29 Network on the church planting assessment team. You can learn more about Caleb and watch sermons or read his writing [here](#).