

Indian Land Church Plant FAQ's

1. Why are we partnering to plant a church in the Indian Land community?

First Baptist Church has a long, rich history of partnering with others to help plant churches. Locally we have been a part of planting Westerly Hills Baptist Church as well as Tega Cay Baptist Church. In the United States, we have recently helped support church plants in New York, Arizona and Maryland, places where too few Bible believing churches exist and the number of people to be reached with the gospel is great.

Planting churches is a powerful way of fulfilling our mission of Glorifying God by proclaiming Christ and making disciples across the street and around the world. It helps fulfill our vision of unleashing a movement of Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered world changers. New churches, when planted well, will reach people that are far from Christ, even in areas where there are existing churches. With the continued and future growth of the Indian Land community it is an opportunity for us to partner with South Carolina Baptists in intentionally planting a church to reach the Indian Land community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. Will this be a satellite campus of First Baptist or an autonomous church?

There are many models of planting a new church. Some have stood the test of time, some are newer and have potential if not a long track record to review. In partnering with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, we have chosen to seek to plant an autonomous church. This will be a church with its own identity and leadership. Our role is to support the church plant in the early stages with our prayer and where appropriate resources. This will not be a multi-site or satellite campus of First Baptist Church Fort Mill. Our desire is to see the Kingdom of God expanded and not the "brand" of First Baptist Church Fort Mill.

3. Won't this "hurt" First Baptist Church Fort Mill?

Planting always involves risk. When a farmer plants a seed instead of consuming them, they risk not receiving anything in return. Yet without the act of planting, there will never be a harvest. Jesus said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* (John 12:24, ESV)

While in the short term some people and other resources may leave First Baptist to be a part of a new church plant, the kingdom impact and eternal fruit is most important. Planting new churches often helps existing churches in at least three ways:

- New churches help raise the evangelistic climate in an area by turning us outward toward our community.
- Studies show that churches that plant other churches are much more likely to grow themselves.
- New churches generate new ideas in the body of Christ that can help existing churches thrive.

It has been said that risking for God is dangerous, but not risking is more dangerous. In the kingdom of God, what you try to hold on to, you lose, and what you release to God's purposes, you keep.