



GENEVA PUSH

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# BUILDING THE PLUMBING

One of the helpful images that's become popular over the past few years in church life is "Poetry and Plumbing". Poetry is the biblical vision casting and stories that inspire the imagination and draw people in. Plumbing is the mechanics, structures and processes that help people partner in what the church is doing to achieve that vision.

Having worked on the poetry (vision and values), we're now going to turn to the plumbing, to help this church plant get off the ground. Structures aren't separate to vision and values. Instead, structures should actualise your vision and values.

As we work through this section, we're going to be laying out a framework for the plumbing. Ideally, we should get others from the launch team involved in shaping our plumbing. Don't do it alone. By bringing others in on this process, they will gain a sense of ownership.

We've got a course that sits along this material called "Mobilising for Mission". While there's overlap between that course and this resource, this resource focuses on building the plumbing from the ground up.

So to start with, here are three principles:





**First, things don't happen in isolation.** We don't have to create a new structure or program for every single outcome or measure. That's not how our lives operate, and that's not how communities operate. If we're clear about what outcomes we're driving towards, it helps us look at the things we do with a fresh perspective. We don't need to create an individual structure for each outcome. In a church plant (or any church for that matter) we rarely have the resources to do that. Even if we did, this silo-thinking goes against the grain of how the rest of life operates. As we consider the plumbing, we're looking to identify and create minimal structures that nurture and facilitate multiple outcomes, while continually assessing whether they're the most effective things to be doing. This point will become more apparent as we move forward.

**Second, we have limited resources.** This is even more apparent in a church plant than in an established church. We have few people, few finances and often a rented facility with restrictions requiring more effort (e.g. church setup every week). All of this means that we're going to need to be shrewd about what kinds of plumbing we create in our church. The key is to identify the most effective things we can do, and do them as well as we can. The hardest decision in this space is not what we will do, but what we won't do.

**Third, where possible, build what can be kept and improved upon.** It's inevitable that there are going to be decisions made pre-launch (to get traction post-launch) that we will need to undo when we hit particular growth barriers. But as we're building our plumbing, we build things that can be built upon as the church grows. This helps build confidence in those structures which support the vision, and ultimately it helps build momentum as our church plant grows through different growth barriers.

At its heart, what we are doing is building a map. It's a map for those who aren't with us yet (Christian and non-Christian) so they might know how (and whether) to join us. It's also a map for those already with us to understand the steps between our current reality and the biblical vision we have identified.



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