



Residency Builder

PLANTING CHURCHES AND REACHING PEOPLE

Nearly 30 church leaders from across the Southeast region gathered at **Nansemond River Baptist Church** in Suffolk for a Residency Builder training event. Residency Builder training is aimed at helping church leaders identify and call out future church planters.

Josh Turner, director of church planting at the SBC of Virginia (SBCV), led the group through several interactive teaching sessions. Participants were challenged to think about how God had called them into ministry and how God might call men in their churches to pursue church planting. The next generation of church planters may be sitting in our pews. Some are not even Christians yet. But, we can stand firm in the knowledge that God is faithfully at work reaching and discipling through the local church.

"Churches planting churches planting churches." This motto has echoed through the SBCV offices since day one. Doyle Chauncey and other founding

leaders of the SBCV have woven multiplication and Gospel advancement through church planting into its very fabric. They prayed that God would move through our network of churches to support the work of churches planting churches. God continues to answer that prayer.

On Residency Builder training day, church plants (some don't even own property yet) and older, established congregations were in the room. Churches with gray hair, no hair, and dyed hair are planting churches and reaching people.

Will Langford, pastor of **Great Bridge Baptist Church** in Chesapeake, reflected on the event: "As an established church pastor, I was encouraged to see how God continues to work through the ministry of church planting. But I was also challenged and equipped to think about how God could use our church to plant more churches!"

God is using the SBCV's network of established and newly planted churches to send out future church planters. According to The Baptist Faith & Message 2000, "It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations" (Article XI). Church planting plays a critical part in our obedience to the Great Commission.

How is God using your church to identify, train, and send out future church planters? What if God was calling your church to be a multiplying church? SBCV will come alongside local churches and help them train and send church planting teams. Yes, with our founding fathers, we continue to say, "churches planting churches planting churches." ■

RESOURCE

To learn more about Residency Builder Training, contact Josh Turner.

 jturner@sbcv.org