



## BENEFITS OF A STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP

*"Iowa Church Leaders Partnering Together to Reach Iowans for Christ"*



### CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Our churches are local communities of hope throughout our state testifying to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. They are communities where the gospel is central and Jesus is lifted high so that all may know of the peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation that comes through belief and repentance. Christ's redeeming work is the amazing evidence of God's mission and power as our churches grow and build themselves up in love.

As a convention we value the health of our churches, and join in the process of helping our churches grow in every way.

### CHURCH PLANTING

The Baptist Convention of Iowa partners with existing churches and church planting missionaries to establish new congregations in under-reached places in Iowa. In addition to financial support, we assist churches to recruit, assess, train, and coach church planters.

Our long-term vision is to see a healthy, vibrant church in each of the 99 county-seat towns of Iowa.



### COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

We learn from the early church that churches regularly banded together, pooled their funds, and worked together to help the vulnerable among them. The Iowa Ministry Fund exists to channel funds into a broad range of ministries that help those who are most hurting in our state and offer help, hope, and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Each year, the best ministries in each of ten ministry categories are selected to receive a grant to help them accomplish their mission of ministering to the hurting and vulnerable within our communities.





# PASTOR & CHURCH SUPPORT INITIATIVES

## RON BLUE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Few areas can cause more family stress and even ministry burnout than constant concern over personal finances. Moreover, given the nature of many pastoral positions, the opportunity to plan and save for retirement can take a low priority. To assist pastors in the area of personal finances, the BCI is able to offer a variety of tools and coaching options in partnership with Ronald Blue Trust.

[www.ronblue.com/Services/Financial-Planning](http://www.ronblue.com/Services/Financial-Planning)

## MINISTRYSAFE / CARING WELL

The Baptist Convention of Iowa is willing to invest in the protection of your children and programs. The annual fee for use of the MinistrySafe system is \$250 per year. For those ministries not yet using the MinistrySafe system, BCI will pick up \$100 of your first year's annual fee. By using the coupon code BC12020 at the time of signup, your first year's annual fee will be \$150.

[www.ministrysafe.com/bci](http://www.ministrysafe.com/bci)

## LIFEPLAN

LifePlan is a facilitated journey that helps you discover your unique purpose. Along the way, you'll gain clarity on where you are, where you want to be, and the key next steps to get there. LifePlan is a roadmap for your life. Over the course of the 2-day process, your Guide will use powerful questions and accessible tools to masterfully surface insights, create clarity, and ultimately guide you to breakthrough.

[www.patercenter.com/lifeplan](http://www.patercenter.com/lifeplan)

## STRATOP

Leaders and teams that use StratOp are doing amazing work. It aligns your people and resources around what matters, bringing focus to your operations, and releasing you to go after the highest-impact opportunities. StratOp helps you to close the gap between a big vision and your day-to-day action. It helps you accelerate your impact, by focusing on the right things today, to take you to where you want to go in the future.

[www.patercenter.com/stratop](http://www.patercenter.com/stratop)

## UNSTUCK CHURCH

The Unstuck Group helps leaders grow healthy churches by guiding them through experiences that focus vision, strategy and action. Through a partnership with NAMB & BCI, we are able to offer Iowa churches access to the following Unstuck resources: Leading An Unstuck Church Course, The Multisite Unstuck Course, The Vital Signs Assessment, and The Unstuck Teams Assessment.

[www.theunstuckgroup.com](http://www.theunstuckgroup.com)

## CHURCH WEBSITE MAKEOVER

A modern-looking, up-to-date website is the front door of your church. Most visitors will check out your church via your website before they will make an in-person visit to your church. Recognizing the significance of a good website, the BCI is providing both consultation and development help for smaller- to mid-size churches needing a new look to their virtual front door.

## COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM

Staying in close contact with your congregation is essential to church unity, vision, and mission. Digital drive communication today, from e-newsletters, to social media, to audio and video streaming of sermons and services. The BCI can help you develop your communications platform to stay connected with your congregation and reach your community with the gospel.

## PEER LEARNING GROUPS

Effective pastors and ministry staff members have one thing in common—they are life-long learners. Staying up-to-date of the latest trends and innovations in ministry is essential to staying effective as a minister of the gospel. The BCI offers facilitated peer learning groups for a growing number of staff positions, from lead pastors, associate pastors, bivocational pastors, worship leaders, children's ministry leaders, and youth ministry leaders. More groups are being added continually. Each group consists of 6-8 members and meets for a year-long focus on developing both skills and network relationships.

## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The BCI offers conferences and training throughout the year to train and equip Iowa church leaders. In addition to our Annual Meeting in the fall of each year, we offer the Ministry Life Retreat and Bivocational Pastors' Retreat. There are also one-day workshops on topics ranging from church leadership development, small group ministry, discipleship, preaching, and vacation bible school.

## PULPIT SUPPLY

The BCI provides on-going support for churches and pastors in need of pulpit supply. If one of our staff members is unable to fill the pulpit for your church on a given Sunday, we maintain a network of contacts ready and willing to help out. Whether it is for a vacation, sabbatical, sick day, or long-term interim situation, our pastor support team can assist with pulpit supply.

## CHURCH REVITALIZATION & REPLANTING

Church revitalization and replanting are a critical component of our pastor and church support teams. As rural populations transition and urban areas see changing demographics, churches often find themselves with declining membership and aging facilities. The BCI can assist in evaluating the current situation and recommending a new pathway that can lead to the return of a healthy church or the rebirth of a new church in the same facility.

## CHURCH CONFLICT RESOLUTION & TRANSITION COACHING

Church conflict and pastor transitions can lead to a divided church and damaged relationships. Many times, the best option in times of transition or conflict is the voice of a trusted, trained outsider who can speak truth without bias into a situation. The BCI is ready and willing to step into such situations and help pastors and congregations find meaningful resolution to deep-rooted conflict or transition to a new pastor.

## CHURCH PLANTER ASSESSMENT, TRAINING, & SUPPORT

The BCI partners closely with the Send Network to plant churches throughout Iowa. Our long-term goal is to see a healthy, vital church in each of Iowa's 99 county seat towns. Those interested in church planting or replanting are guided through a proven process that provides not only the necessary financial support to launch a healthy church, but the ongoing training and personal support a church planting couple requires.