

What is a church in a church?

A Church in a Church (CIC) is starting a separate service in another language at the same time and as part of your regular Sunday offerings. It is separate in that it is a complete worship and teaching service in another language.

It is integrated in that the pastor sits on the pastoral staff and elders sit together. It is aligned by values, doctrine and mission. It is one church with two languages.

The worship service, middle-sized groups and small groups usually meet at the same time but in separate rooms and in a different language.

They can share their pulpits, their music and their lives together.

“Having the same DNA as the church is very critical to us. Being of one mind, one spirit doctrinally as well as philosophically and vision.”

Pablo Cachon
Southwest Community Church
Indian Wells, CA

What a CIC gives back to the host church!

- It extends the mission of the church.
- It brings cultural awareness.
- It brings health to the host because the congregation sees growth and multiplication.
- It gives the host an opportunity to train new people who are hungry to learn.

Preparations

- The congregation must be prepared—this is big.
- The elders must understand and support.
- The pastor(s) must be totally committed and evangelistic about the concept.
- The ethnic pastor must have church planting skills and be able to bridge cultural divides.
- The ethnic CIC must be charged to give appropriately and not become just takers.
- The ethnic pastor must be respected and lifted up so that the ethnic congregation knows they are wanted and respected.

Costs

- Hiring a bi-lingual ethnic pastor
- Adequate room and equipment
- Outreach funds

Where do I start?

- Pray and be sure this is God’s vision and timing for your church.
- Watch the Church in a Church DVD by Alejandro Mandes, Hispanic Ministries director.
- Visit the Hispanic Ministries Web site: www.efca.org/hispanicministries.
- Mobilize resources within your church and within the EFCA.
- Call (612) 296-5232 or email Alex.Mandes@efca.org

Resources

- GATEWAY Theological Institute offers language-specific, practical and accessible theological training.
- Host church leaders can be mentors.
- EFCA Church Planting Boot Camp trains future planters and their teams.

Why start a church in a church?

When planting a Hispanic or other ethnic church, many times a choice must be made between hiring a pastor or renting a building due to a lack of funds. In addition, you must deal with the issue of what language will the service be in? The first generation speaks the language of origin, but their children become bilingual and often are English dominant.

By nestling a Hispanic or other ethnic church in a larger church, the families go to church together. First generation go to the Spanish service. Second and third generations can choose English or Spanish.

By 2050 America will be majority minority. All of the minority groups together will be more numerous than Caucasian Americans. A CIC is an intentional step to help start a non-English speaking church in an existing church.

*If you are interested in exploring
a church within a church,
please contact*
ReachNational
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*“CIC is bringing a body within
our body making sure that we
align theologically, missionally
and in every way we expand
who we are.”*

Dr. Alejandro Mandes
Hispanic Ministries director

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