

**EASTERN MICHIGAN DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
**Criteria For Prospective Planting Communities**  
**Receptivity Factors**

**1. Does the population trend suggest the need for a new church?**

- How does the church population compare to the increase of new residents in the community? The more population movement the greater the receptivity.
- A community with very little movement, or with highly transient figures, decrease levels of receptivity.
- Does the long range growth predictions suggest the need for expanded infrastructure in the community? When municipalities begin expanding services the community is usually receptive to new churches.

**2. Have other new churches started recently (last year or two)?**

- If new churches have started recently there may be issues of publicity saturation.
- If new churches have been started, how have they done and what is the perception of them?

**3. Are there available sponsoring churches for a plant in this community?**

- The closer the sponsorship involvement is to the prospect community the greater the receptivity and chances for success.
- Sponsorship creates a support network that greatly increases success.

**4. Is there an existing Nazarene influence in the community?**

- Existing Nazarene churches create a positive environment for more new churches. Familiarity plays a great role in creating receptivity to a new work.
- Potential leaders for the establishment of the new church.

**5. Is there a potential leader and/or leadership team available to start a church?**

- The leader(s) of the new church will be the greatest receptivity factor in the life of a new church.
- Does the NewStart leader have “roots” in the prospect community?