

**October 2008**

**Assessment Center Update:**

**TeAmerica Church Planting is now "Converge-USA Church Planting!"  
And with that shift – some changes in church planter assessments.**

The Converge-USA Assessment Center is beginning a whole new era in church planting assessments. New leadership, a re-evaluation of the core procedures and building-blocks, a new pre-assessment protocol, upgraded diagnostic measures, and a fresh look at the competencies of emerging leaders are just some of the changes being embraced as we prepare for the future.

The Converge-USA Assessment Centers will be operated on a regional basis around the country, using local host churches with highly successful church planting experience as primary sites. The actual assessment team is a composite of highly skilled professionals in leadership development/assessment and experienced church planters who know first-hand the challenges of getting new churches started. Converge-USA Assessment Centers continue to enjoy a close partnership with the Minneapolis-based consulting group, *Strategic Team-Makers, Inc.* and with the growing network of churches associated with *Converge Worldwide*.

Many sending agencies, churches, and denominations have found Converge-USA Assessment Centers (formerly "TeAmerica") to be a helpful tool in the process of enlisting new church planters. We hope to expand and build upon that fine tradition.

**New Leadership Team:**

**Curt Gruber** (San Diego, CA) and **Marlan Mincks** (Waukon, Iowa) are the new Directors of the Converge-USA Assessment Centers. At each assessment experience they will be on-site with **Jerry and Steve Dahl** of Strategic Team-Makers, Inc. to lead the team. **Susan Ward** (New Ulm, Minnesota) is our new administrator who will help candidates get all the testing, referencing, and paperwork completed. Any questions about the assessment entry process can be directed to her.

**New Schedule (in process):**

All Assessment Centers will operate on a Tuesday thru Friday schedule. Sometimes, when FirstSteps Training is offered on-site, candidates may want to stay over Friday and Saturday as well.

November 18-23, 2008	Baltimore/Washington D.C. area Host: 1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Glenarden
January 13-16, 2009	Chandler/Phoenix, AZ area Host: Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
March 24 – 27, 2009	Orlando, FL Host: Vision 360 Churches (Tentative)
June 16 – 19, 2009	Denver/Littleton, CO Host: The Rock Church (Tentative)

**Note:** All paperwork, referencing, and testing needs to be completed 30 days in advance of the assessment center.

### **New Pricing Structure**

For several years the Converge-USA Assessment Center (formerly *TeAmerica*) was generously underwritten by the Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin. Over \$600,000 was subsidized and invested by their board to make the assessment process possible for many candidates and sending agencies. But changes in delivery also mean changes in cost. The following pricing structure goes into effect October 1, 2008.

Candidate couple	\$595
Converge-USA couple	\$300
Cancellation/Refunds Policy:	\$300 non-refundable

Above prices cover all food for the duration of the assessment center.

All candidates and/or sending agencies are responsible to cover the costs of **transportation and lodging** (at a local hotel). A list of reasonably priced hotels near the assessment site will be provided. In some need-based cases, housing might become available through the host church on a case-by-case basis.

**Important:** in the event that a candidate is sent to the assessment center without an assessor present, the sending agency will cover the cost of finding and funding a replacement (approx. \$300). The candidate and the process benefit hugely by the presence of an assessor who has prior knowledge of the

candidate. Please send an assessor. [Transportation and lodging costs are the responsibility of the sending agent.]

### **Application Process:**

1. **Registration:** Prior to payment submit the following to Susan Ward, our program coordinator—
  - a. Candidate and spouse name and contact information
  - b. Sending church and/or agency name, affiliation, and point of contact
  - c. Assessor name and contact information
2. Following confirmation of **registration** make payment to *Converge Worldwide, Inc.* via check or credit card. All payment must be received no later than 30 days in advance of the event. All payments received less than 30 days prior incur a \$50 late fee.
3. All paperwork, referencing, and testing for the candidate/couple begins with payment.
4. Note: Based on the above timeline, candidates will want to work a full 45-60 days ahead of the projected assessment center dates.

### **What is my first step?**

Contact Susan Ward ([susan@convergeusa.org](mailto:susan@convergeusa.org)) or (507) 766-3475.