

Sponsors for New Church Development

Church Development and Evangelism Committee

Mission Presbytery

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Sponsoring sessions/congregations partner with the Church Development and Evangelism Committee to promote new church development within Mission Presbytery. The initiative and support of local congregations is vital at every stage of church development. The attached document *Developing New Churches in Mission Presbytery* provides an overview.

Sessions who wish to sponsor a probe, fellowship, or new church development are asked to submit their request to the CDEC, accompanied by Session minutes indicating the type of support they are willing to commit, as well as the name of a liaison (preferably a Ruling Elder active on the Session). Sessions are asked to reconsider their commitment once a year.

Although the responsibilities assumed by a sponsoring Session/congregation will vary greatly, the following list may be helpful to Sessions as they discern God's will. Sponsor activity changes as the new venture progresses through the probe, fellowship, and new church development stages. Each context and sponsorship is unique.

Some probes, fellowships, and NCD's have several sponsors. Others have one or no sponsor when they first begin. Every new church development is blessed by the support of an existing congregation, and sponsoring congregations find inspiration through their efforts. God is always doing a new thing. We hope you will join us in creative, Spirit-led evangelism.

Potential Responsibilities of Sponsoring Sessions/Congregations

1. Pray for those called to the new congregation.
2. Receive memberships to be held in trust for the new congregation and pay per capita. Note these memberships are part of the sponsoring congregation until charter. Technically, these members are petitioners to form a new church.
3. Approve baptisms and record the names of those baptized. Most fellowships and NCD's will have pastoral leadership, but the sponsoring Session must assure appropriate administration of the sacrament.

Manual of Operations

4. Appoint a liaison to link the probe, fellowship, or NCD with the sponsoring Session, Mission Presbytery CDEC, Synod of the Sun, and GA. See *Responsibilities of New Church Develop Liaisons*. Assure that the liaison reports regularly to the Session and to the CDEC of Mission Presbytery, including an evaluation of the process and results.
5. Assure that funds are received, handled, and appropriately distributed. In the early stages the sponsor may assume financial responsibilities until a leadership team is formed and trained.
6. Lead or participate in a probe and other stages as outlined in *Developing New Churches in Mission Presbytery*.
7. Assist with grant and funding requests. See *Developing New Churches...*
8. Offer financial and other forms of support, including office and worship space, supplies, training, background checks, insurance, etc.
9. Integrate the new congregation with the sponsoring congregation through mutual worship, mission, and fellowship activities.
10. Participate in the activities and leadership of the probe, fellowship, or new church development, including the calling/negotiating terms of call for an organizing pastor or Mission Presbytery Presbyterian Evangelist.