

**Subject:** Re: Planting an OP Church Resource Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 1:32:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Katie Stumpff  
**To:** Mike Myers

**From:** Mike Myers <myers10332@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 12:14 PM  
**To:** Katie Stumpff <katie.stumpff@opc.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Planting an OP Church Resource Update

There are a couple schedules that I followed for general training in leadership and theology and then with the candidates themselves, both separate and together.

My method for the Leadership Training was to get a general exposure to Westminster theology and practice. What I required every attendee to do was read through every word of the Confession and Catechisms. The church supplied printed copies and three highlighters (red, yellow, and green). Things they agreed with they marked in green, usually with a check mark of course. Things they were unsure of they marked in yellow. Things they disagreed with they marked in red. So after my teaching segment, the results of their reading and highlighting formed the basis of conversation and instruction.

We had nominations after that class was over, which brought us to the training marked "Officer Training Schedule". There I mixed up the teaching between me and the elder candidates. I assigned hot topics to them and required them to research it and then teach the group on their subject. I also assigned required readings. Throughout that process I met with them individually as well, providing feedback and input.

The final Organization letter explained the various responsibilities of the provisional session, mission work, and organizing pastor. Obviously in this case I wanted to stay and tried to communicate that in a way that preserved their liberty to call whom they will.

This is not *the way* to do it, just what I did. My hope in providing this info is to fill in the gaps, however small they may be, in the how-to's of church planting and officer training in the OPC. I'm happy for it to be used (or not) however the committee sees fit.

Mike

## Heritage Presbyterian Church

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**From:** Mike Myers <[myers10332@gmail.com](mailto:myers10332@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 11:13 AM  
**To:** Katie Stumpff <[katie.stumpff@opc.org](mailto:katie.stumpff@opc.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Planting an OP Church Resource Update

I have attached a couple of things that I wrote for my congregation. Here's some of my thought behind writing these. While the Manual is extremely helpful, I found it lacking in the real nitty-gritty, nuts and bolts of the *process* of officer training and organization. I have had several conversations with current church planters who have asked these very same questions, mostly along the lines of, "So, what do I actually do to train the men, communicate to the church, etc." I wrote the "Anatomy" letter to help guide the

congregation through the nomination process. The letter to the congregation sketched out the process from nominations to organization, albeit very broadly.