

APPENDIX 7

Enabling Motions

In order to facilitate the establishment of new mission works, presbytery home missions committees are often called upon to provide the governmental mechanics for doing Presbyterian church planting. This appendix provides recommended wording for the motions that will be required to enable a presbytery or its committees or appointees to do their work.

To recognize a petitioning group as a mission work (for presbytery action):

That the presbytery recognize the group of petitioning believers in _____, in response to their request, as a mission work of the presbytery in accordance with FG XXIX: A.1; that those who have been examined and approved be enrolled as members at large of the regional church; that Messrs. _____ be assigned the responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the mission work; and that the mission work be granted permission to use the word “Church” in its name for publicity purposes.

To receive members into a mission work (for session action):

At _____ on _____, Mr. and Mrs. _____ met with the Committee at _____ in _____ to apply for membership in the newly forming Orthodox Presbyterian church in _____.

During the interview, the Committee inquired about their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their walk with him, their family and work backgrounds, their present church affiliation, their reasons for requesting membership in the OPC, and their agreement with the constitutional questions asked of all prospective members of the OPC.

On motion it was determined to receive _____ and _____ into communicant membership in the newly forming Orthodox Presbyterian church in _____ by reaffirmation of their faith, along with their covenant children _____ (born _____) and _____ (born _____); to place their names on the rolls of the Regional Church of _____ until such time as the mission work is organized as a new and separate congregation.

To record the names of members of a mission work (for session or presbytery action):

That the following names be recorded on the rolls of the Regional Church of _____ as members of the forming congregation of _____ Church in _____:

Communicant Members:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Noncommunicant Members:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

To process a call to an organizing pastor (for presbytery action):

That the presbytery extend the following call to _____:
 The Presbytery of _____, being, on sufficient grounds, well

satisfied with the ministerial qualifications of you, _____, and having good hopes that your ministrations in the gospel will be profitable to the spiritual interests of the people of our mission work in _____, do earnestly call and desire you to undertake the office of evangelist, laboring as the organizing pastor of _____ Church; promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, prayer, and encouragement in the Lord. And that you may be free from worldly care and employment, we join with the people of the mission work to promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of \$ _____ in regular monthly payments during the time of your being and continuing as an evangelist there, together with a housing allowance of \$ _____ per month, federal self-employment tax payments of \$ _____ per quarter, pension payments of \$ _____ per quarter, denominational health insurance payments of \$ _____ per quarter, disability and workman's compensation insurance payments of \$ _____ per quarter, and four weeks of vacation each year.

That Mr. _____ be installed as an evangelist of the presbytery in a service of installation held at _____ on _____, and that the members of the home missions committee be appointed as a committee on arrangements for the service.

To request financial assistance from the Committee on Home Missions (for presbytery action):

That the presbytery request the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension to provide aid in the amount of \$ _____ per month, commencing _____, for the support of _____ in his work as an evangelist, laboring as the organizing pastor of the mission work in _____, with the understanding that such aid is part of a four-year program of field support for total aid of up to \$ _____, pending the annually renewed recommendation of the presbytery.

To organize a mission work as a new and separate congregation (for presbytery action):

That, in accordance with FG XXIX: A.4, the presbytery authorize its home missions committee to:

1. Draw up a list of members at large from the regional church who are part of the mission work and designate them as the charter members of the new congregation.

2. Examine and determine the qualifications of men who are part of the mission work who may stand for election as ruling elders and deacons.

3. Call and conduct the congregational meetings required to elect elders and deacons and to call a pastor.

4. Ensure that the mission work conforms in all other respects to the standards of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and report to the presbytery that the mission work is ready to become a new and separate congregation of the regional church.

Then, after the home missions committee has completed its work and reported to the presbytery in accordance with FG XXIX: A.4.e:

That the presbytery proceed to organize _____ Church in _____ as a new and separate congregation of the Regional Church of _____, in accordance with FG XXIX: A.4, and authorize that a service of recognition and installation be held on _____, and that the home missions committee be appointed as a committee on arrangements for that service.