

Stewardship Plan for CHMCE Supported Mission Works

I. Purpose and Rationale

The CHMCE Operating Manual, in the section concerning policies for support assistance (p. 10; 6.D.1), includes the following two paragraphs:

b. Before receiving initial support, the presbytery will complete and submit to the Committee the Church Planting Assessment and Action Plan (see Appendix A), which will provide: an historical sketch of the mission work, guidelines and provisions for oversight and evaluation, and a plan for developing it into a self-governing and self-supporting congregation, including adequate provision in its budget for the labors of the evangelist on a full-time basis.

c. Before receiving continued support for the second, third or fourth years, the presbytery will submit by November 15 a request for such renewal, together with a written review of the original Church Planting Assessment and Action Plan for the mission work, including an indication that provision has been made in its budget for the continued labors of the evangelist on a full-time basis and for benevolent giving to presbytery and denominational causes.

The committee drafted the following two page document to provide a clear process to consider both the history and the plan for new works pursuing CHMCE funding. This is intended not as something wholly new, but rather as a more intentional implementation of the tasks described in the operating manual.

This document should be completed and submitted to the CHMCE before the consideration of a request for new support. Also, every year when requesting continuation of support, the presbytery home missions committee should submit an updated version of the document. (An update simply means adding any developments of note from the past year to the previously completed document.)

We believe the completion of this document will help each stakeholder in the starting of a new work – not only helping the presbytery and the CHMCE evaluate and serve the developing group, but also helping the new work more fully understand and embrace their call as a developing work.

Please recognize that this document and the implementation of this process will take time to develop and mature. We welcome any feedback, including suggestions to improve the usefulness of the questionnaire.

If you have any questions during the process of utilizing this tool, please contact the staff. We are here to assist and support your work.

II. Stewardship Plan Instructions

The following questionnaire is to be completed by the home missions committee or the overseeing session of a new church plant on behalf of the presbytery home missions committee. We recognize that God alone builds the church, but he calls us to serve him as stewards in the planting of new churches. Therefore, we do well to sit down and count the cost; to exercise wisdom and common sense in beginning such labor. This questionnaire serves as a tool for the planning and preparing of a new work.

A detailed Stewardship Plan has several purposes:

1. to ask important questions about a new work in order to examine the activities and resources needed to plant a new and healthy church;
2. to describe the work being planned and the steps that will be taken to establish the work;
3. to determine what resources are already available and what other resources will be needed to establish the work;
4. to evaluate the progress of the work;
5. to determine when the work is ready for presbytery funds, CHMCE funds, and a church planter;
6. to help in the search for a church planter, both so that candidates learn about the work and so that the search committee can identify and evaluate suitable candidates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide a brief summary of the overall plan. The executive summary should include your mission, your objectives, and the keys to developing a viable Orthodox Presbyterian Church in your location. Please keep the executive summary to one page or less.

HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF PROPOSED WORK

Briefly outline how this proposed mission work came to be and where it stands today.

OBJECTIVES

Briefly describe the objectives of the mission work. What are its goals? How will this church be different from other churches in this community? Why this church in this community at this time?

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

Describe the community in which this mission work will be located. Here are some examples of questions to answer. What is the size of the community? What is the growth rate? What is the ethnic and socio/economic makeup of the surrounding community? What are the demographic

trends (e.g. population, economic, ethnic, cultural, etc.)? What are the opportunities and challenges of planting a new church in this community?

ECCLESIASTICAL ANALYSIS

Describe the ecclesiastical community. Have any new churches been planted in the community in the past five years? What is the present status of these new churches? What church or churches in the community would be most like the contemplated mission work?

Most important: Make a list of all the NAPARC churches within 15 miles (or in the greater metropolitan area) including the name of the pastor(s) and address of the church. Make a list of all the Reformed churches (broadly defined to include CRC, RCA, CREC, Calvinistic or Reformed Baptist, Independent Reformed) within 15 miles including the name of the pastor(s) and address of the church.

HUMAN RESOURCES

List and describe each of the individuals/families that make up the core group, including strengths and gifts they might bring to the work. Describe the character of group interaction or congregational life (fellowship, connectedness, worship, commitments, etc.) among the core group. Describe the oversight (both current and planned) for the work. List any church officers who are part of the group or any potential officers already identified.

OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

Give an historical sketch of the ministry of outreach and evangelism already exhibited within the group. What have you done as a group? As individuals? Explain how the core group members have involved themselves in this work already. Describe plans for outreach and evangelism going forward. What will you do? How will you do it? Who will do it?

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Describe the budgetary needs of the mission work. Identify the anticipated expenses of the mission work year-by-year for the next four years. Identify revenue sources and anticipated revenue amounts from each of these sources year-by-year for the next four years. Identify the key assumptions used to develop the financial plan and provide justification for these assumptions.

OPPORTUNITIES

Describe why the proposed church planting opportunity is attractive and draw some conclusions based on your research. Based on these observations, evaluate the potential for this work. What evidence do you have that demonstrates the need for a Reformed and Presbyterian work in your community?

