

New and Transforming Church Commission

CCDOCGKC

Agenda for May 2, 2018

Homer's Coffee House

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes from March 21 Meeting-approved

What is a New Church? How do we support the process of planting churches?

First, clarity- Current New Churches: Green Life; MultiNation

What is a new church? The commission entered a discussion.

Is it a hard and fast year limit, such as 5 years? If so, is it five years from first public service? 5 years from soft launch? 5 years from first approach to commission?

One commission member pointed out that our job is to support a new church plant. This requires a body. It needs to be a pastor and a committed group of people that are looking for partnership (if a pastor gets hit by a bus tomorrow, what happens to the church?).

A new church is not a vision and a pastor. It is a movement and a people. Then documents to create an infrastructure to support the vision.

But then, how do we support potential planters to discern a) a call to plant b) a place to plant/model for planting, etc.?

We need to define the levels and channels of support that the commission (and future Regional Minister) will oversee:

Our Support of Potential Church Planters: A different definition, not church support, but support of getting a planter off the ground. Will we offer assessments? Will we host conferences?

Our definition of a new church: Because we are speaking of 'church,' pastor plus minimum of five people. This team has been praying together, planning together,

and feel like they need an extra push to root down and grow their ministry. They come to our commission for support as a Disciples of Christ church. The plant comes to us as a core group and the commission assists in the work of cultivating proper documentation, budget planning, affiliation, etc. The commission agrees to support the plant for five years (again, so long as it also upholds the requirements to be a Disciples congregation). This support constitutes coaching and mentorship, access to grants, and conferences.

Five years from the declaration-that's how long the "new church" financial grant support.

A reminder, we are specialized to help churches in liminal seasons: new church plants and churches in their window of revitalization. The region as a whole always supports ministry, as does the general church. And the goal is to establish a commission and budget for the region to support churches in their first 10-15 years of existence.

Looking back to the strategy, what is our plan to support a planter who is coming from another part of the country as a planter?

While the personality of the planter compels them to invest and risk, we can have some plans as a commission to help the transition. Like an on ramp.

Idea-create list of potential established churches that might want to "grandmother" new church plants in the region, and to allow the new planter to nest as she gets going.

*For Next Time...*what is the on ramp for a planter who comes to Kansas City?

Updates and Decisions-Helen Nelson of Green Life Church

The commission agrees that we should help Helen discern between two paths: encouragement toward parachurch movement, that resources churches like a local Green Chalice. Or come back to us once she has that committed five plus core group that is meeting with her weekly, contributing to the plan, praying and worshipping together. We are not ready to formally declare Green Life a New Church.

Planning DMA Presentation, May 10th (From our discussion in March, outline below, welcome to change:)

- Amy speaks to Revive
- Casey speaks to Inhabit and Search for RM
- Jose speaks to Q and Barna research
- Travis speaks to Pentecost Offering

Pentecost Offering Update (Sharon, Jose, Tim)

Sharon reached out to all of the Kansas churches with two emails. Jose is reaching out to the 'city' churches. Tim will use Sharon's emails as a template to reach out to Missouri congregations. Gary finished an excellent promo and Laura Phillips has added it to a support tab on newtransformingchurch.com

Action Item: Draft by-law to clarify what constitutes a New Church in the region, those who are eligible for New Church grants

Action Item: Date, time, location for June Meeting