

New Worshipping Communities Commission Charter and Membership

Background:

At the September 1999 meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Presbytery adopted the following recommendation, creating what was then called the New Church Development Commission.

Council recommends that Presbytery create an administrative commission to be known as the New Church Development Commission [G-9.0503a(2)], which will report semi-annually to the Presbytery and have the following powers:

- 1. To create two new church development (NCD) task forces to plan and implement new church start-ups in a) the Pittsburgh north side community affiliated with the Pittsburgh Project and b) the western area of Allegheny County;*
- 2. To create and supervise future NCD task forces as appropriate;*
- 3. To request budgets from Presbytery to implement and staff such new church developments; and*
- 4. To assume and all powers and responsibilities of a session for the benefit and ministry of the new congregation and to lead such church as authorized in G-7.0200, Organizing a Particular Church, or to delegate such powers and responsibilities to the new congregation when said Commission deems it appropriate to do so.*

Since 1999, there have been significant changes in the Book of Order, the structure of the Presbytery, and within the PC(USA) regarding new church development and new worshipping communities. As such, at its meeting on December 1st 2021, the Commission approved the following charter for adoption by the Presbytery:

1. Membership
 - a. The New Worshipping Communities Commission shall have twelve (12) members, of whom six (6) shall be ruling elders and six (6) shall be teaching elders.
 - b. They shall be elected in compliance with the principles of inclusiveness, participation, and representation.

- c. The quorum of the New Worshipping Communities Commission shall be a majority of its membership.
 - d. Standing Members - Any individual serving in the following roles shall be asked to serve as a member of the commission if they meet the qualifications listed in 1a-b, and are members of Pittsburgh Presbytery or one of its congregations:
 - 1. 1001 New Worshipping Communities Staff Members.
 - 2. The Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary or its successor program.
 - ii. These individuals shall be included be serve regular terms as part of a rotating class, and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as a voting member.
 - iii. If a standing member is ineligible to serve as a voting member, they shall be afforded voice but not vote as part of the commission.
2. Authority - The Commission is established per G-3.0109b(4):
- a. *Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council. Functions that may be entrusted to administrative commissions include, but are not limited to developing immigrant fellowships, organizing new congregations, merging congregations, or forming union or federated congregations (G-5.05);*
3. Powers and Responsibilities
- a. To create and supervise new worshipping community task forces as appropriate;
 - b. To request budgets from Presbytery to implement and staff such new worshipping communities; and
 - c. To assume any and all powers and responsibilities of a session for the benefit and ministry of the new worshipping community and to lead

such community as authorized in G-1.02 (Organizing a Particular Church).

4. Accountability - The Commission shall be directly accountable to, and shall report directly to, Presbytery. The Commission shall hold stated meetings and may, with due notice, hold special meetings as called by the Chair or by two (2) members of the Commission.