

Agenda for the Missional Partnership Meeting
of the Central Region of the Presbytery of San Francisco
May 14, 2019 at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church

1. Presenting the adopted charter for our missional partnership priorities and peer review grant process.

The Central Region Mission Partnership Charter was approved at our regional meeting of February 22, 2019. As requested at that meeting, the charter has been perfected with the insertion of the original quorum definition adapted at the regional meeting of May 23, 2018.

2. Responding to some questions asked since our last meeting (Feb 2019):

Questions have been addressed to our regional understanding of New Worshipping Communities (NCW) as congregations for the purposes of establishing quorums, in regards to our voting and as a congregation eligible to apply for regional partnership grants.

The peer review team will pursue this question and bring back a recommendation to our region at the next regularly scheduled meeting (August 2019). Currently the PR Team understands congregation as defined by our past Presbytery and Denominational polity, in particular in terms of the definition of “charter.” This definition comes in part from the Presbyterian Mission Agency document entitled “Q&A 1001 New Worshipping Communities” which can be found at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/QA-Legal-for-NWC.pdf>

Q1. What is a New Worshipping Community (NWC)?

A1. New Worshipping Community (NWC) is a term used for a group of individuals who worship together or otherwise share Christian fellowship, but are not an organized congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Q4. What does the Book of Order say about NWCs?

A4. The Book of Order does not define NWCs. It does, however, speak of “other forms of corporate witness” (G-1.0103) as well as “fellowship groups,” “new church developments,” and “other non-congregational entities” (see G-3.0301(b)). None of these entities are defined in the Book of Order but when they are developed and if they include worship they may be a NWC.

Q5. How does a NWC differ from a congregation?

A5. The Book of Order defines a congregation as a formally organized community chartered and recognized by a presbytery as provided by our Constitution. (G-1.0103)

A NWC is not a congregation as defined by the Book of Order. Even if a NWC is designated by a presbytery as a fellowship group or a non-congregational entity, it is still not a congregation.

Q6. How does a NWC differ from a New Church Development (NCD)?

A6. Every NCD is a NWC, but not every NWC is necessarily a NCD. A NCD is more intentional about becoming a chartered congregation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With the advent of 1001 NWCs, NCDs have become a subset of the NWC movement. NCDs typically are on a more traditional path toward membership and may end up looking more like existing churches.

Q7. Are NWCs subject to the authority of the local presbytery or the Book of Order?

A7. This will vary with each NWC. Some NWCs may have no official connection with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and, therefore, are not necessarily subject to the authority of the local presbytery or the Book of Order. However, many will be connected to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through a particular congregation or presbytery, all with varying degrees of connection and oversight.

3. Introducing and explaining the Central Region Mission Partnership Grant Application as adopted and implemented by the Peer Review Team.

We will work to distribute this application and collect submission electronically, most likely through our Central Region page on the Presbytery website. We will send electronic verification of this tool going live via a direct email within 30 days.

4. If you have further or future questions about the work of Central Region please address them to

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