

Organizing a Church in MAP

Incorporate as a GA Not for Profit

Get your IRS EIN #

For our Presbytery MMA Committee suggests that you have

- at least 50 adults sign a petition to organize
- be financially self funding
- have at least 2 ruling elders ordained or ordainable
- be missionally engaged in our region and to the nations
- be contributing to the presbytery and the NCN

Process:

1. Pick a date to have formal organizing service.
2. Draft a petition to Organize requesting Presbytery to Organize the Mission Church (BCO 5-8-1) Have at least 50 signatures and submit to MMA chairman who will bring it to Presbytery.
3. Request Presbytery (the MMA Committee is empowered to automatically serve as a commission if you'd like) to erect a Commission to examine the ruling elder candidates. Either use the same Commission to Organize or submit the names of the Commission members to Organize the church as well. Your call as new pastor needs to be submitted to the committee for presbytery approval as well.
4. The Commission will examine eligible candidates and those approved will be submitted to the congregation/members of the mission church for election. (Not less than thirty days prior to the election, the list of nominees must be given to the congregation and voted on (BCO 5-9-3). This means that the exam must precede the election by at least 30 days. **You can't examine and elect on the day of organization.**
5. The congregation elects a pastoral search team (usually good to have your new elders be that team, but you don't have to)
5. The congregation determines how many ruling elders the church will have. I suggest you submit the number and start with the first Session with slated terms of service. One for one year, one for two years, one for three year terms. That way you would not rotate out an entire Session. Remember, the one year term guy can be re-elected after the first year.
6. On the day of the Organization Service, the church is constituted as a particular church in the PCA, the elders are elected, ordained and installed, the pastoral search committee makes its report, the pastor is called and installed, and everyone is happy!