

Church Organization Criteria Guidelines

The following is offered as sample guidelines for presbyteries to consider in determining when to organize a mission church as a Particular Church. These guidelines carry no authority, and they were prepared by MNA Staff only on November 8, 2013. They have not been acted on by the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America or the PCA General Assembly.

In Light of This Instruction:

BCO 5-9.a. “A Presbytery should establish standing rules setting forth the prerequisites that qualify a mission church to begin the organization process, e.g., the minimum number of petitioners and the level of financial support to be provided by the congregation. The number of officers sufficient to constitute the quorum for a session shall be necessary to complete the organization process.”

Recommended Wording For STANDING RULES:

While approval of any petition to organize a mission work as a particular church is at the discretion of Presbytery, at least two of the following three prerequisites must be met for a petition to be presented for consideration by the court:

1. A minimum of 50 communicant members of the mission work signing the petition presented to Presbytery for organization as a particular work, per the provisions of BCO 5-9.g.
2. Demonstrated internal financial support providing 100% of the annual budget adopted by the temporary government of the mission work, per the provisions of BCO 12-5.b.
3. A minimum of three Ruling Elders elected by the members of the mission work, per the provisions of BCO 5-9.d.

Where any one of these prerequisites is not met, Presbytery may determine that the deficiency does not prohibit proceeding to organize the mission work as a particular church. However, under no circumstances will Presbytery approve a petition for organization where less than two Ruling Elders have been elected by the members of the mission work.