**Manual of**

**Mission to North America Committee - Calvary Presbytery**

**Chapter 1. MNA Committee**

1. This committee shall be composed of sixteen (16) members as follows: six (6) teaching elders, 6 (six) ruling elders, and four (4) deacons. Terms of service are four years. Two members from the same church may serve on this committee if the second member is a deacon. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall disperse committee funds at the direction of the Committee, in cooperation with the Treasurer of Presbytery.
2. The duty of this Committee shall be to assist the Presbytery and the particular churches in carrying out the Great Commission in regards to new church development and church growth within the bounds of Presbytery. This committee shall give oversight and consultation for specific works as requested by Presbytery and/or Calvary Presbytery Churches in the following areas:

Church Growth and Revitalization – This is a ministry to established churches seeking assistance.

It involves assistance in subject areas as leadership, organization, evangelism, assimilation, lay ministry, small group ministries, vision/goals/plans, church diagnostics, demographics, etc.

To assist churches in building programs when necessary.

2. Church Planting – This is a ministry of new church development which is sponsored by the Presbytery and/or a

mother church within the Presbytery seeking assistance.

1. To develop and maintain a master plan for Presbytery sponsored new church development which shall

include all the people groups within the bounds of Presbytery and cooperation among nearby PCA and other fraternal churches.

1. To initiate, ~~and~~ supervise, and give oversight and counsel to new churches, church planters sponsored by the Presbytery and/or mother churches within the Presbytery seeking assistance.
2. To serve as a Commission to train the officers of any church seeking to join this Presbytery in the constitutional standards of the Presbyterian Church in America, and to examine them in their understanding of, and allegiance to, these standards.
3. Mission workers (church planters) receiving MNA funds shall report to this committee quarterly on their progress.
4. To study and recommend means of reaching minority groups within the bounds of Presbytery.
5. To help fund as approved by Presbytery new church works.
6. Church Extension – This involves consulting with and recommending the reception of established churches from

outside the PCA.

4. General

a. To give oversight to any military chaplains laboring in or out of bounds of Presbytery. Military chaplains

shall report at least annually.

b. To assist in mobilizing ministry of mercy and disaster relief due to natural disasters in the bounds of

Presbytery.

To alert Presbytery to needs in case of natural catastrophe outside of the bounds of Presbytery.

To report to Presbytery on the work of the Mission to North America Committee of the General Assembly.

The Committee shall make a written report at least at the Summer meeting on all work done by the Committee and shall at the Fall meeting present the operating budget for approval for the ensuing year.

This Committee shall consider assistance to “minority” men training for ministry in the PCA.

This Committee shall organize pertinent events for the Presbytery in regards to church growth, revitalization and planting as necessary.

h. To perform other duties as deemed wise by Presbytery.

**Chapter 2. The Organization of New Churches**

A. The Initiation of New Churches

1. There are a number of ways in which the process of establishing a new congregation begins including:

a. Individuals or groups interested in the PCA may contact this Committee.

b. The Committee may seek to generate interest in a PCA work in an area where there is opportunity to

develop a new church.

c. The Committee may seek to generate interest with minority groups.

d. A local congregation may contact the Committee for assistance in the establishment of a mission church.

2. The Committee will then do the necessary groundwork before actually starting a ministry.

1. When working with a group which has contacted the Committee, every effort should be made to discern

the group’s theological make-up and spiritual maturity.

b. Make a feasibility study of the entire situation, taking into consideration factors such as the organizing

principle, potential leadership, the growth potential of the area, the number and proximity of Reformed

Churches and evangelical Churches, etc.

B. Having satisfactorily determined the potential for a PCA ministry, subsequent measures may be employed as follows:

1. To guide interested parties in developing a vision which shall include a philosophy of ministry and goals.

2. Media advertising with responses to be received through a contact person in the area, through a postal box, phone,

email, etc.

3. An initial meeting, or series of meetings, would then be held to further determine the level of interest and

commitment to a PCA Church in that area.

4. Evaluation by the MNA Committee to determine the next step.

It must be understood that every part of this recommended procedure should be undertaken only in the context of constant, fervent prayer by this Committee, by the interest group, and by the churches of Calvary Presbytery.

C. Bible Study. Once the decision has been made to make a commitment to a work in an area, it is advisable that it be

organized as a regular Bible Study Group operating under this Committee.

1. The Leadership for such a group at this point may be a local minister of one of our Churches, a licentiate, or a

minister without charge from the Presbytery. It is essential that the leadership be provided

and supervised by this Committee or the Session of the local congregation involved.

2. From the outset, the members of the Bible Study Group should be strongly encouraged to assume as much of the

financial responsibility as possible. The membership may expect this Committee, or the local Session, to help to

the extent required, but it should be made clear that as the group grows, so should their willingness and ability to

support themselves.

D. Chapel. The next step toward becoming an organized congregation of Calvary Presbytery is for a Bible Study to be

designated by this Committee a Chapel. Ordinarily, the criteria to be met are as follows:

1. An action of the group expressing their desire to seek membership in the Presbyterian Church of America.

2. At least thirty adults committed to the work who will sign commitment cards or a Statement of Intent and place

themselves under the direction of this Committee.

3. Arrangements should be made to have all who sign commitment cards or a Statement of Intent to be examined by

the session of an existing church.

4. Ability to assume at least one-third of all operating expenses.

5. Demonstrate leadership and have the potential for church officers.

At this point, the Committee may consider securing an Organizing Pastor for the group. The organizing pastor would ordinarily be required to have satisfactorily completed the Assessment Center held by Mission to North America of our General Assembly.

E. Organizing as a Church. Ordinarily, the following criteria should be met before the Committee recommends to Presbytery

that a Chapel be organized as a particular Church:

1. At least fifty communing members.

2. At least three men trained and scripturally qualified to become Ruling Elders.

3. Ability to assume at least two-thirds of the Organizing Pastor’s salary, including housing, travel expense, insurance,

annuity, etc.

**Chapter 3. Reception of Organized Churches**

Sessions of organized churches seeking admission to the Presbyterian Church in America must be examined by this Committee with respect to doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church in America prior to the admission of the church into this denomination.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE:** The following is not a permanent part of the Manual.

Procedure: The Plan of Union adopted by the UP USA and PC US churches requires that congregations have the assurance that they will be received by the body to which they request dismissal.

The Book of Church Order of the PCA requires the examination of all sessions of churches seeking membership in our denomination “to make certain that the elders understand and can sincerely adopt the doctrines and polity of the Presbyterian Church in America as contained in its Constitution” (BCO 13-8). In order to avoid conflicts over this matter with the PC USA, sessions should meet with the MNA Committee for consultation, orientation, and examination before their congregation’s request for dismissal comes before their Presbytery. This is to assure the congregation that they will be recommended to Calvary Presbytery for reception in the event that they are released from the PC USA.

**Chapter 4. Financial Support**

A. Financial assistance may be rendered by this Committee in a number of ways:

1. Assistance in renting facilities for new groups, such as Bible Study groups.

2. Assistance in the support of an organizing pastor.

3. Assistance in the support of aCn organized church which needs Presbytery help to survive.

4. 4. Typical assistance of mission churches on a three-year support framework as funds allow (exceptions to this typical

framework can be made to Presbytery by this committee).

a). First Year: $20,000

b). Second Year: $15,000

c). Third Year: $10,000

5. Ethnic Minority Scholarship Fund: The purpose of this scholarship is to facilitate the education of minority

candidates with the intent that they serve or plant minority congregations within the PCA.

6. Support of other activities and projects assigned to this Committee by the Presbytery.

B. Support Assistance. Financial self-sufficiency is a goal of all congregations. To assist in reaching that goal, the following

guidelines are to be observed by the Committee:

1. In established congregations which cannot carry on without Presbytery assistance, a diminishing scale of financial

support shall be worked out between the congregation and the Committee over a three-year period. In those

situations where financial support is ended, but help is still needed, such help will be offered in one or more of the

following ways: by creating a multi-church field, by a tent-making ministry, by using retired ministers, licentiates,

laymen form near PCA congregations, or other proper means of providing for this congregation to continue as a

viable, self-supporting entity.

2. In the case of Bible Study Groups, assistance shall ordinarily be limited to survey, visitation support and promotional

efforts. The Bible Study Group is expected to furnish the initial meeting place and provide travel expenses of the

leader when possible.

The leaders of all Bible Study Groups under the jurisdiction of this Committee must be approved by the Committee.

3. In the case of Bible Study Groups and Chapels, there may be a planting period not to exceed one year. After this

initial year, or from the time at which the group becomes a Chapel or a Church, or shows sufficient promise of

becoming a Chapel or Church, financial self-sufficiency would be expected within three years of that time.

4. The Committee shall not ordinarily extend financial support to any aid-receiving group for more than four years.

Requests for extension of financial assistance beyond that limit may be made by the Steering Committee, the

Session, or a representative group coming personally before the Committee to make their request.

5. Pastors and/or sessions of aid-receiving churches shall make quarterly reports to the MNA Committee.

These reports will include:

a. All income and expenses.

b. Attendance patterns.

c. Number of visitors.

d. Evangelistic efforts.

e. All scheduled services and activities.

f. Other pertinent data.

6. When aid-receiving groups fail to show growth or the prospect of becoming a self-sustaining group, this Committee

may advise dissolution of the group and dismission of the members to nearby PCA congregations.

**Chapter 5. MNA Ministry Fund Policy**

A MNA Ministry Fund has been established by this Committee for the purpose of aiding churches and MNA related ministries that may include the following: Current works needing more aid; new MNA related works not in the budget; or additional Ethnic minority scholarship gifts. Churches and individuals may designate funds to Calvary Presbytery MNA for any MNA related ministry purposes. The Committee will seek to increase these funds so as to be able to assist MNA related works in a meaningful way.

Control of Financial Support.

1. Applications for financial support may be submitted by organized congregations, sessions, steering committees, or the designated person in authority for a special project approved by this Committee.
2. Support for new or established church works will be authorized only after supporting data has been fully considered and approved by the MNA Committee.

This supporting data shall include:

For new works: All information related to MNA requirements for church plants

For established works: the MNA Questionnaire for Established Churches Seeking Support.

For ethnic minority scholarships: Ethnic Minority Scholarship Application

3. Financial support will be allocated by the MNA Treasurer as approved by Presbytery.

**Chapter 6. Gifts and Grants**

Gifts and grants may be made to PCA missions and other works by individuals or churches through the MNA Committee.

NOTE: This Manual was approved by Calvary Presbytery, July 2018.