

CDT Language regarding starting new churches and ministries.

Full Time New Church Start Definition:

A new church start is expected to be making disciples for Christ and transforming their community reaching a critical mass in five years with a minimum of 120 adults participating regularly in worship, small groups, and missions. (This number may fluctuate based on the giving units needed to reach self-sustainability). It is created to be “self-sustainable” by the fifth year and at that time will be chartered. From the beginning, the new church start will have a budgeted line item for connectional ministry. This figure will be determined by the founding pastor and DS.

Part-Time New Church Start Definition:

A new church start created to make disciples for Christ and transforming their community with the realization that they may never be a full time appointment. More than likely, the founding pastor will be a non-elder—thus a local pastor or lay person. This church can be “self-sustainable” but will never be chartered unless the Holy Spirit blesses it and it grows to a full-time church. From the beginning, this church will have a budgeted line item for connectional ministry. This figure will be determined by the founding pastor and DS.

Mission Church Start Definition: a new ministry created to make disciples for Christ and transform their community knowing they will never be “self-sustainable” thus needing a major revenue source to survive. This source should be a local church in the area having the same vision as the mission church start. In fact, before beginning, this should be a ministry of a local church. Like a part-time new church start, if the Holy Spirit blesses this church and it grows to be a full-time church that is ‘self-sustainable’ this too may be chartered but the rule of thumb is not to be chartered. From the beginning, this church will have a budgeted line item for connectional ministry. This figure will be determined by the founding pastor and DS.

Hybrid Church Start Definition: a new church start who has not reached critical mass of 120 adults and is not “self-sustainable” by the fifth year of existence. At this time, the CDT and cabinet will have to determine the viability of this church and take the necessary steps to address its future.

Restart Church Definition: an existing church which has voted to close the church. The cabinet will appoint a new pastor to start a new congregation. The property is transferred to the Conference Board of trustees and then is reissued to the new church start.

Vital Church Mergers: when several churches within a geographic area gather together to ascertain where God’s vision and mission is for this geographic community. These churches will agree to close their churches and sell their properties to begin a new church start. Of course, each situation will be unique and need to be evaluated for both property needs and pastoral leadership.

Redevelopment/Revitalized Church Definition: an existing congregation dying and unwilling to close but the cabinet wants to create a parallel congregation to reach out to the community. The pastor will serve both congregations. Eventually, the new congregation will become the dominant congregation.

Satellite Church Definition: an existing congregation which votes to merge or close and reopen as a campus of an existing large church. Each situation will be unique but the major purpose is to create a new DNA.