

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT REGARDING NEW ARTICLE VII, COMMISSIONS

At this time, the specific assignments for the new commissions would be as follows:

The Church Health Commission oversees the advancement and development of church health in the ERC. The Commission will seek to resource churches, pastors and leaders with best practices for ministry and church development. Specifically, the Commission will:

1. Oversee, schedule and resource the hubs established in each district to provide essential teaching, training, and resourcing for pastors and leaders.
2. Serve as the mediator for church conflict and reconciliation as well as pastor and council issues
3. Oversee the interim ministry for the purpose of placing skilled and qualified interim pastors for placement in churches in transition
4. Approve all building programs and provide counsel in regards to building, remodeling, purchasing, selling or leasing space for congregational use. Will be the approval process for recommending churches to the Home Mission Council for financing
5. Oversee the renewal and revitalization efforts of churches in serious decline
6. Encourage every church to be evangelistic, missional, and engaged in global missions.
7. Oversee the annual evaluation of church health for every church in the region
8. Encourage congregations to be effective disciple makers
9. Guide congregations to provide effective children, youth and a family ministries

The Pastoral Health Commission will seek to improve the effectiveness and health of pastoral leaders in the Conference. The Pastoral Health Commission will seek to encourage and develop pastors for effective ministry through pastoral care and counsel, resourcing, mentoring and coaching and if needed professional counseling. Specifically, the Commission will:

1. Provide annually retreats and other activities to foster spiritual vitality and health in pastors including the pastor's prayer retreat and clergy couples retreat
2. Oversee and develop mentoring and coaching relationships for pastors
3. Provide teaching, training, and resourcing on soul care, maintaining a Sabbath, and developing effective boundaries and time management skills
4. Provide counsel to pastoral spouses as needed
5. Aid and assist pastors in transition by providing financial and other resources and conducting an exit interview for pastors leaving a charge.
6. Working with administrative councils to help them more effectively care for and provide for pastors and their families
7. Oversee the annual evaluation of pastoral health for each pastor of the region

The Church Multiplication Commission will seek to help churches multiply disciples, leaders, ministries, and churches. The Commission will oversee church planting as well as efforts for multiplication through our established churches. Specifically, the Commission will:

1. Foster the development of new churches through the multiplication efforts of the established churches.
2. Provide a structure for developing new churches that includes the assessment of churches and planters
3. Work to champion multiplication of disciples through resourcing and training in discipleship ministries
4. Promote the establishment of leadership development and multiplication throughout the region
5. Work with new churches to be multiplying other new churches
6. Continue to resource and provide for new church plants and to care for them after they launch
7. Provide an annual church evaluation for all churches in their first ten years

The Credentialing and Placement Commission will seek to work with pastors sensing a call to ministry, oversee their development and work to place them in ministry. The Commission will serve as the body for credentialing, both licensing and ordination for all pastors. The Commission will further work with the local church in placing pastors in ministry. Specifically, the Commission will:

1. Interview all persons sensing a call to ministry and seeking to serve as a pastor in the region.
2. Provide funding with stipulations for those seeking theological education.
3. Oversee the licensing and credentialing of all pastors as well as the service of ordination during the annual conference sessions.
4. Oversee the continuing education of all pastors in the region.
5. Work with the local church in the pastoral search process.
6. Establish the guidelines for pastoral compensation and certify all pastors seeking approved ministry status.
7. Certify pastors for retirement
8. Officially appoint pastors to congregations
9. Address theological issues relevant to the pastors and congregations of the Conference