

Models of Resolutions to Receive Established Churches and Pastors:

I.

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING RECEIVING AN ESTABLISHED CHURCH

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church's Constitution approves receiving established congregations from other ecclesiastical bodies in section 10.3 (2001 edition).

Whereas, we are grateful to God that _____ Church has applied for membership in this presbytery under these guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That _____ Presbytery receive said congregation into the Cumberland Presbyterian family for a provisional period of two years, with this action reported to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly;
 2. That a Commission of _____ Presbytery be appointed to convene with said congregation at its place of meeting, during a regular or special worship service on a date to be determined in consultation with the congregation, for the purpose of officially receiving and welcoming the new congregation into the Church, with prayer and the proclamation of the Word, an affirmation of intent by the congregation, and an affirmation of the presbytery's commitment to mentor the congregation;
 3. That Presbytery appoint the Rev. _____ to coordinate efforts to provide mentoring opportunities and facilitate assimilation of the new church and its leaders into the life of the Presbytery and the denomination, and to co-opt others to assist in this process as needed;
 4. That immediate plans be made to conduct elder training for potential elder candidates in the congregation, and that a session, composed of not more than seven elders, be elected/ordained in rotation classes as soon as that training has been completed;
 5. That the election of a session in no way relieves the Presbytery of its continuing active mentoring of the church and its leaders, and the congregation's responsibility to work closely with Presbytery's representatives;
 6. That at the conclusion of the provisional period, all parties being satisfied as to the conduct of ministry in the new church and its progress in participating in the life of the Presbytery and denomination, the congregation shall be recognized as a particular church of the denomination with appropriate ceremony, and this fact communicated to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.
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II.

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING RECEIVING AN ETHNIC/CROSS-CULTURE ORDAINED MINISTER FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION

Whereas, the 169th General Assembly approved an interpretation of the Constitution regarding receiving an ordained minister from another church and Non-Anglo heritage in the USA as follows:

“That General Assembly interpret section 6.40 of the Constitution to provide for the recognition of ordination specifically for a Non-Anglo ordained minister who desires to work primarily with his/her own ethnic community [in the USA] to develop or serve a Cumberland Presbyterian congregation, and who because of native language, racial/cultural heritage, economic opportunity or national circumstances, has not acquired full educational requirements for ministry as prescribed by the Constitution, but who nevertheless exhibits suitable gifts and abilities for a fruitful ministry. The interpretation would permit the minister to exercise full ministerial responsibilities in the congregation/ministry to which he/she has received an approved call within the bounds of the presbytery for a provisional period of two years, and be enrolled as a member of presbytery. The minister would submit to the oversight and mentoring of the Committee on the Ministry during the provisional period.” and,

Whereas, the General Assembly offered additional comment and interpretation regarding this matter as follows:

“In cross-culture settings in the USA, indigenous leadership is absolutely essential for effective work. A specific interpretation, referencing the Constitution’s ‘exception clause,’ section 6.34, would be helpful to facilitate recruiting and mentoring effective leaders for cross-culture ministry. [Therefore], that General Assembly interpret the ‘exception clause’ in section 6.34 of the Constitution to specifically include indigenous leaders for cross-culture ministry. [And] that General Assembly encourage presbyterial Committees on the Ministry to utilize the General Assembly Board of Missions to assist in providing guidance for ministers and probationers in cross-culture ministries.”; and

Whereas, the General Assembly further affirmed these interpretations by referring the draft of a constitutional amendment to this effect to the Joint Committee on Amendments; and

Whereas, we are grateful to God that Rev. _____ has applied for membership in this presbytery under these guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That _____ Presbytery receive said minister into the Cumberland Presbyterian family for a provisional period of two years, upon affirmative answer to the following questions, with this action reported to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly:

- A. As far as you know your own heart, do you believe yourself to be called by God to the office of the Christian ministry?
- B. Do you promise, in reliance upon the grace of God, to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for ministry in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church?

- C. Do you promise to work with the presbytery through its Committee on the Ministry in matters that pertain to your preparation for ministry in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church?
- D. Do you desire to be received as a minister by this presbytery for a provisional period, with the goal of having your ordination fully recognized in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church?

2. That the Committee on the Ministry of _____ Presbytery assume responsibility for the oversight and mentoring of the minister, naming one member of Presbytery to serve as mentor;

3. That the Committee on the Ministry call on the assistance of the General Assembly Board of Missions to provide guidance for the minister in the cross-culture setting;

4. That at the conclusion of the provisional period, all parties being satisfied as to the quality of ministry rendered by the minister and his/her progress in sharing the theological and ecclesiastical stance of the denomination and assimilation into the Church, the minister shall be fully recognized as an ordained minister of the denomination with appropriate ceremony, including affirmative answer to the questions put to licentiates at their ordination according to the Constitution section 6.42, and this action reported to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.