

Guidelines for Receiving Established Congregations

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Minutes, pp. 14195-14196

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING ESTABLISHED CONGREGATIONS INTO MEMBERSHIP

Congregations applying for membership in the Presbytery of Chicago shall fulfill the following criteria:

1. The congregation and pastor shall indicate their willingness to endorse the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to honor its discipline. The Constitution consists of the *Book of Confessions* and the *Book of Order*.
2. The congregation and pastor shall declare their intention to be guided into patterns of participation in the life of the Presbytery, including support of Shared Mission Giving, remittance of per capita payments, and participation in Presbytery meetings and Presbytery entities.
3. The congregation shall have an ordained pastor who is a member of the Presbytery of Chicago. If at the time of application, the pastor is not a member of the Presbytery of Chicago, the congregation's membership application shall be placed on hold until such time as the pastor has completed his/her membership process.
4. The congregation shall prepare an acceptable budget, which will include adequate compensation to its pastor. Salary requirements for pastors shall be consistent with guidelines established annually by the Presbytery.
5. The congregation shall show evidence of at least 75 members actively participating in the life of the congregation.
6. The congregation shall have an established, suitable place to conduct worship. If the congregation owns a building, the congregation must abide by the Constitution of the PC(USA) whereby the property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). See G-4.02
7. The congregation will be prepared to elect, ordain and install ruling elders and deacons. See G-3.0201
8. The Session will provide annual reports to the General Assembly. See G-3.0201
9. The congregation will adopt a satisfactory set of By-laws and take steps to become incorporated. See G-4.01
10. The congregation will be prepared to work with the Presbytery in planning a service of chartering.

For further information, call or write: The Presbytery of Chicago
100 South Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 243-8300