
GA39-05
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the deletion of the Permanent Church Planting and Revitalization Committee in *Rules for Assembly*. (In 2018, this recommendation was presented by the Permanent Church Planting and Revitalization Committee to the 38th General Assembly for action. Due to the lack of commissioners present for the vote, it could not be considered.

Current Rules for Assembly X.10-1C.	Proposed Rules for Assembly X.10-1A (proposed amendment is a deletion)
<p>C. Committee on Church Planting and Revitalization.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership to be three. Chairman is to be elected by committee. 2. Duties: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches. b. To coordinate, encourage, develop and provide resources for church revitalization efforts of presbyteries and churches. 	<p>C. Committee on Church Planting and Revitalization.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership to be three. Chairman is to be elected by committee. 2. Duties: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches. b. To coordinate, encourage, develop provide resources for church revitalization efforts of presbyteries and churches.

Rationale:

Since 2009 the Church Planting and Revitalization Committee (CP&R), known then as the National Outreach Committee, fulfilled these duties primarily by supporting and resourcing the church development ministry of our presbyteries. This ministry is led by the chairs of our presbytery church development committees. The National Outreach Committee (NOC) hosted the presbytery church development chairs twice a year in the General Assembly Office. At these meetings successes and struggles in church planting and church revitalization were shared as well as best practices and other lessons

learned. The role of (NOC) in these meetings was to listen, encourage and explore how NOC help, given the limited funds at its disposal.

Responding to a request by those chairs for help with church planting in 2012, the NOC was instrumental in launching the Church Planting Team, led by Tom Ricks. Responding to a request for help with church revitalization in 2013, the CP&R launched the Church Revitalization Team (now known as the Go Center), led by Ken Priddy.

The NOC served the church development efforts of our presbyteries by launching these teams, it was also the platform from which the Church Planting Team and Church Revitalization Team (Go Center) grew in its impact in their respective areas in the EPC. One result of this “Team approach” has been the creation of networks that have improved the effectiveness of our presbyteries in their church planting and church revitalization work. With seven percent of our churches church plants, we are a church planting movement. Over 200 churches have been exposed to church revitalization seminars, with more than 70 pursuing church revitalization.

The 37th General Assembly (2017) signaled its support for the ongoing work of this team approach to church planting and church revitalization by inserting these ministries into its annual budget. With the success of these Teams and their tie to the Office of the General Assembly through the EPC budget, the Church Planting and Revitalization Committee believes a permanent committee to oversee these network ministries is superfluous and no longer necessary.

If approved by the 39th General Assembly (2019), this section of *Rules for Assembly* would be deleted. Reference to this committee in other sections of *Rules* would also be deleted (ie, *Rules* 10-1.A.3.a.1, where the committee is listed as one of those for which the National Leadership Team has administrative oversight).

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Referred to FLOOR