



Building Partnerships with New Worshiping Communities

New worshiping communities of the Presbyterian Church (USA) are not lone-ranger ministries disconnected to the wider church. Their point of connection to the whole church is a congregation or mid-council. That incorporated body has the opportunity to provide both care and accountability for the infant community until such time as the new worshiping community should be deemed ready to become an organized congregation. The relationship between a new worshiping community and the established church is mutually life-giving and spiritually renewing.

There are many different ways to provide care and accountability. This list is meant to get you started in your new adventure, but it is in no way meant to be comprehensive or limiting. It is a list of suggestions, not requirements. We hope you will add to the list and let us know how your own relationship with a new worshiping community has brought new meaning and purpose to your organization.

Care and Accountability

- Pray for the NWC
- Exchange or share resources such as preaching, music, child care, special events
- Manage funds for the NWC
- Include the NWC under the insurance policy of the organized church or mid-council
- Provide office or meeting space for the NWC free of charge or at a minimal cost
- Provide for the administration of sacraments
- Maintain baptismal records for the NWC until such time as the community becomes an organized congregation
- Provide some financial support for the NWC
- Serve as sponsor/liason for the NWC as it applies for grants from the Presbyterian Mission Agency or other organizations
- Send members to volunteer at the NWC as requested
- Provide opportunities for NWC leaders to participate in leadership of the congregation or mid-council
- Introduce NWC to other congregations for possible support
- Encourage congregation members to make regular financial gifts to NWC
- Sign a covenant of commitment between the established congregation and the NWC
- Regularly meet with the NWC leadership team to encourage them to set and meet realistic goals
- Help to develop a strategy for sustainability for the new worshiping community
- Stay connected to the new worshiping community through prayer and relationship building
- Enjoy shared gatherings
- Encourage the NWC leaders to engage in generative spiritual practices