

Welcome!

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California and Nevada (CCNC-N)

BECOMING A CONGREGATION “UNDER CARE”

We are committed to starting and nurturing new congregations in this Region. We have a goal of starting 40 new¹ Disciples congregations by the year 2020. We strive to provide the support and resources necessary to make these churches sustainable and vital witnesses of our shared mission.

The first step toward becoming a new Disciples congregation is to come “under care” of the Region. Once “under care” it is usually 2-7 years before a new congregation is sufficiently established and stabilized to be “charted” – or to become a congregation with full standing in the Region.

Each new church will have a unique path during these initial years of development but this document is intended to clarify the steps that are common to most, if not all, of our new congregations.

To come “under care” of CCNC-N, several steps need to be taken within a year or so.

STEP ONE (1): There must be an initial meeting with Regional Staff (LaTaunya, Yolanda, or Kyung-Min Daniel)

- Church planter and/or key leaders of new church must be present
- Prepare to share the vision for the new ministry
 - Vision and Mission statement(s)
- We’ll discuss mutual expectations
 - What is expected/needed/desired from Region?
 - Who are the Disciples? Expectations for living in covenant with other Disciples congregations.
- The planter/leader(s) will be encouraged to begin the Discernment and Assessment process designed by NCM. This is a tool designed to promote the success and long term sustainability of new churches.
- We will review next steps.

STEP TWO (2): The new church must meet with the Leadership Team of New Church Committee at a regularly scheduled Team meeting.

- Church planter and/or key leaders of new church must be present
- New church brings with them:
 - A formal letter, signed by the leadership of the new church, requesting under care status
 - Drafted version of mission and/or vision statement(s)
 - A copy of bulletin, if there is any
 - A list of membership, if there is any
 - A supporting letter from the established church, if the space is either rented or nested in

¹ “New church” in this context could be a newly organized group of believers, or an existing congregation that seeks to affiliate with the CC(DOC). The term “new church” will be used throughout this document and refer to both situations.

- The committee will expect to learn the vision, mission and values of the new church as well as a general description of the target demographic or cultural context.
- The committee will look for indications that the Holy Spirit is at work in this ministry and will likely ask some clarifying questions.

STEP THREE (3): Site visit and make a report by staff and/or member of the Leadership Team two (2) weeks prior to a full committee meeting to make a recommendation.

STEP FOUR (4): At the conclusion of the full committee meeting, the New Church Committee will make a recommendation to the Regional Executive Committee whether to take the new church “under care”.

STEP FIVE (5): Region’s Executive Committee votes on recommendation of New Church Committee.