Welcome!
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California and Nevada

STEP ONE: BECOMING A CONGREGATION “UNDER CARE”

We are committed to starting and nurturing new congregations in this Region. We have a goal of starting 40 new 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 the Christian Church in Northern California and Nevada:

□ There must be an initial meeting with Regional Staff (LaTaunya 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 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.

□ Next the new church must meet with New Church Committee at a regularly scheduled committee meeting.
  ▪ Church planter and/or key leaders of new church must be present
  ▪ New church should bring with them a formal letter, signed by the leadership of the new church, requesting under care status
  ▪ 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.

□ At the conclusion of this meeting, the New Church Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California and Nevada hereafter CCNC-N, whether to take the new church “under care”.

□ Region’s Executive Committee votes on recommendation of New Church Committee

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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.