

MNA Committee Manual

I. PURPOSE

A. General:

The objective of Covenant Presbytery's MNA Committee is the extension of the Church of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the gospel and the organizing of believers into local churches. Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:46-48, Acts 1:8.

B. Specific:

1. To establish churches in every major city within the bounds of Covenant Presbytery and then to extend each county.
2. To promote mission work outside the boundaries of Covenant Presbytery where other PCA Presbyteries are not organized until such work can be integrated into a PCA Presbytery.
3. To promote Church growth within the bounds of Covenant Presbytery for both established churches and mission churches.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. The MNA Committee

1. The committee shall be composed of not less than six (6) members, with parity of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders or Deacons, to be divided into three (3) or more classes of equal number. Members shall be elected by Presbytery upon nomination by the Nominating Committee and shall not be eligible to be elected to a consecutive term on this committee. Members elected to fill unexpired terms shall be eligible to serve one (1) full term additional. Two Alternate members, with parity of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders or Deacons shall be elected annually to each committee, who shall be expected to attend the committee meetings and to vote in the absence of any Principal member. Election shall normally be held at the October Stated Meeting, with terms of office to begin on November 1 following, except when unexpired terms are to be filled.
2. A quorum shall be at least one-half (s) of the Principal members.
3. The committee shall elect its own chairman and other officers from its membership annually.
4. The committee may elect its own treasurer who shall receive funds, maintain a committee fund, and disburse funds as directed by the committee,

5. The secretary of the committee shall send copies of the minutes of the committee meetings (edited at the discretion of the committee) to the chairmen of the other Permanent Committees.

6. No member of Presbytery may serve on the Committee while he is being supervised as a field worker.

7. The Committee will normally meet the second Tuesday of the month prior to the stated meeting of Presbytery.

B. Jurisdiction

All business involving MNA, whether by a local church or the General Assembly, properly comes under the jurisdiction of Covenant Presbytery's MNA Committee.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. To the General Assembly's MNA Committee

1. Coordinate all matters of General Assembly's Committee as they relate to Covenant Presbytery.

2. Keep informed and cooperate with this Committee.

3. Request their assistance in the evaluation of potential areas for new work.

B. To Covenant Presbytery

1. Present reports at each stated meeting.

2. Present a proposed budget to the Administration Committee at the proper time.

3. Circulate organizing Pastors throughout the churches of Presbytery with the end in mind of raising prayer and financial support.

4. Promote, encourage, and give training in evangelism to the Churches of Presbytery

5. Maintain a permanent sub-committee charged to assist Covenant Presbytery in providing disaster relief and encouraging mercy ministries primarily within presbytery bounds. This sub-committee should be composed of at least one RE and TE who would serve 2-year terms. The sub-committee should involve deacons within the churches of presbytery to assist in the implementation of actions approved by presbytery.

C. To The Organizing Church

1. Oversee the work and assess its progress at least quarterly.

2. Prepare a contract as to the financial commitment of Covenant Presbytery for the work at the outset and notify them of any changes in that commitment in the interim. This contract will be reviewed at least annually.

3. Jointly secure, approve, and call an organizing Pastor.

4. Advise and/or instruct in the training of Ruling Elders and Deacons.

D. To The Organizing Pastor

1. Make a definite contract with him as to Presbytery's financial commitment at the outset of his call to the work.

2. Give counsel, encouragement, and oversight by monthly meetings with the committee or one of its members.

3. Review Presbytery's financial commitment at least yearly.

4. Make sure each Organizing Pastor receives training in evangelism.

E. For the Establishment of New Churches

1. Pinpoint target cities within the bounds of Presbytery for the establishment of new work.

2. Encourage established churches to initiate new works by:

a. Surveying areas to determine the need for work in their area

b. Supplying "seed families" to begin new works.

3. Employ Seminary students for summer work.

a. To survey potential areas.

b. To establish in-home Bible studies.

4. Seek and work with interested groups for the formation of new churches.

5. To use the Mid-South Church Planting Network as a resource and partner in these efforts (Covenant Presbytery Stated Meeting 137-17.2).

a. Communication (Covenant Presbytery Stated Meeting 147-19.3)

i. The MNA chairman will serve on the executive committee of the Mid-South Church Planting Network.

ii. The Coordinator for the Mid-South Church Planting Network will be asked to maintain regular communication with the chairman of the MNA committee.

b. Funding

- i. The MNA committee will work alongside the Mid-South Church Planting Network to help raise funds for church planters within presbytery bounds.

c. Strategy

- i. The MNA committee will work in conjunction with the Mid-South Church Planting Network in strategizing potential sites for future plants within the presbytery, as well as, recruiting candidates for planting churches.

F. To Churches Seeking to Affiliate with Covenant Presbytery

Act as liaison with groups or churches interested in affiliating with Presbytery.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Contact Assisting Family (or families)

Locate and designate an individual to assume leadership (i.e., contact interested persons by personal visits, phone calls; surveys, etc.)

B. General Survey of the Community

1. Type of community: upper, middle, lower, ghetto professional, white collar, blue collar, military, etc.
2. Financial status: average income, taxes.
3. Kind of Development: apartments, large or small families, young or older couples, etc.
4. Types of roads and public transportation.
5. Schools
6. Future for area: growth, or otherwise.
7. Political orientation and influence.

C. Source of General Survey Data

1. Regional director of a utility company - projected number of homes - telephones, etc.
2. Planning Commission
3. Real Estate Development Companies

D. Religious Survey of the Community

1. What does name "Presbyterian" mean in the community?
2. What are evangelicals doing in the area?
 - a. Visit evangelical preachers.
 - b. Talk to those who name the name of Jesus.
 - c. Mark churches on map, with one-line description of their ministry: liberal, evangelical, fundamentalist image in the community.
 - d. Contact other Reformed churches, specifically.

E. Suggestions for Developing the Work:

1. Secure radio time for 60-second spot announcements. Saturate area for 6-12 weeks.
2. Advertise in a local newspaper (one in Sunday A. M. paper in first section, other in Wednesday or Thursday on religion page,)
3. Follow up on all replies with personal letter telling who we are and what we desire to do in the area.
4. Make personal visits or phone calls and answer questions about PCA.
5. Contact interested people regarding a home Bible study/prayer group.
6. Arrange and advertise a public meeting.
 - a. Plan the public meeting carefully: know what is to be said and who is to say it (need to find names and addresses of those in attendance).
 - b. At the meeting: Have a coffee/cake break - give time for questions. Announce next meeting, time, place, etc.

F. Methods of Church Planting

1. Seed Family Approach
 - a. 10 families.
 - b. Giving should project that it will be self-supporting within 30 months.
 - c. Normally 1/2 of organizing pastor's salary will be paid by organizing church at outset.
 - d. Presbytery's percentage will be on a declining scale of 5% per month after the first year.
2. Key Areas within Presbytery's Boundaries.

- a. A longer term is expected before work will be self-supporting.
 - b. MNA Committee is responsible for initial financing. As families are added, Presbytery's financial commitment will decrease accordingly.
3. Specialized Ministries: Encourage local churches to underwrite the financial responsibilities.