



APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY
OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

**PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHING
NEW WORKS, CELL WORKS,
MISSIONS, AND CHURCHES**

REVISION NOVEMBER 24, 2021

**TREATISE: PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHING NEW WORKS, CELL WORKS,
MISSIONS, AND CHURCHES**
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INTRODUCTION

1. This treatise officially replaces the document dated January 15, 1999.
2. Due to the growth of the Church, we have recognized the need to revise, update, and even modify the former treatise to clarify and establish that which relates to the establishing of New Works, Missions and Churches using traditional methods, as well as the cellular method.
3. All districts and National Missions fields need to take note of this agreement, so that in their areas, these general principles are observed, which will standardize the establishment of new works and the future development of them using both traditional methods and the cellular method.
4. This document is a compilation of different ideas and writings that some districts and National Missions fields already have in place.
5. After studying the need to establish something uniform on this subject, we present a new concept, with the purpose of clarifying the issue of the difference between a New Work, a Mission and a Church as well as adding how to plant a church using the cellular method.
6. For this we are recommending that this matter be considered as a tripartite matter, both in the traditional method and in the cellular method. We believe that if we see it this way, we will be able to define these cases.
7. The Roman numerals I, II and III give the instructions to indicate how a New Work begins and the process of becoming a Mission and then a Church using

traditional methods. The Roman numerals IV, V and VI present the instructions that indicate the process that a Church Plant carries out under the cellular method. From its beginning as a Cell Work to the process of becoming a Mission and then a Church.

I. NEW WORKS

A. WHAT IS A NEW WORK?

B. WHO CAN PLANT NEW WORKS?

C. HOW DO NEW WORKS OPERATE?

WHAT IS A NEW WORK?

1. “New Work” is the term that has been adopted to call the group of brethren who come together with a vision of establishing a future Church, approved by the corresponding authorities, as stated in this treatise.
2. The New Work, as its name implies, refers to both the place and to those who gather, that is, that the emphasis should be placed on the “beginning” of a Work and not necessarily on the “continuation” of a Work.

WHO CAN PLANT NEW WORKS?

1. The Bishop should promote and approve the opening of New Works.
2. The local Pastor can establish New Works.
3. The District and Region may establish New Works with the approval of the pastor contributing staff to that New Work and the closest pastors (if in the same city) to that New Work.
4. A Minister can request permission from the Local Pastor to start a New Work.
5. Note: No Minister or person shall be allowed to arbitrarily start a New Work.

HOW WILL NEW WORKS OPERATE?

1. As a New Work, they will be responsible for implementing our organizational, doctrinal, and economic systems.

2. New Works may be sponsored by the local church, the district, or by national leadership in their respective areas of work.
3. The Ministers who lead New Works will be considered as “Ministers in Charge”. If a Minister is not available, a Deacon can start the New Work, and after a period of 1 year (or whatever is agreed upon with the corresponding authorities), he could be considered for ordination and after this, be given the title Minister in Charge.
4. The Minister in Charge will send his tithe to the treasury of whoever sponsors him.
5. They will be given a trial year, at the end of which an evaluation will be conducted, and if warranted, they will be given an extension.
6. Proselytizing is unacceptable. It will adversely affect his assessment if he proselytizes.
7. “Ministers in Charge” may not issue letters of recommendation or transfer letters, or receive members from other churches, without authorization from the corresponding authority.
8. The financial obligations and activities of the New Works will be supervised by the corresponding authority, based on the agreements made.
9. New Works will not be able to obtain an EIN number or open bank accounts.
10. Monies will be deposited into the bank account of the sponsoring church, district, or region. These monies will be managed jointly with the person in charge of the New Work.
11. “Ministers in Charge” will attend district or regional (in the National Missions field) meetings and activities.
12. When a New Work has baptized 20 people, and the supervisor verifies that their economy has the ability, then that New Work can be considered to become a Mission.
13. From the start of the New Work, the distance between one church and another must be considered. It is recommended that there be flexibility in the minimum distance in a metropolitan area and that this be determined by agreement of the District Board of Directors or the Regional leadership in National Missions, the Pastor who sponsors the New Work, and the pastors closest to the proposed site of the New Work.

14. The Pastor or Minister who desires to begin a New Work must submit a written request to the Bishop of the District or National Region and receive approval before starting the New Work.

II. MISSIONS

A. WHAT IS A MISSION?

B. HOW DO MISSIONS OPERATE?

WHAT IS A MISSION?

1. When a New Work already has 20 or more members who they have baptized, and its corresponding authority has verified that it has adequate financial capacity, the Bishop, the Elder, and the Pastor will make the necessary arrangements to declare it a Mission.
2. The decision will be made by the Bishop and the corresponding authorities to name “Pastor in Charge” the one who presided over the New Work or if necessary, appoint another Minister to take the place.

HOW DO MISSIONS OPERATE?

The Mission will assume the following responsibilities:

1. As a Mission, they will be responsible for implementing our organizational, doctrinal, and financial systems of operation.
2. The Mission will not send the tithes to the General Treasury until after it becomes a Church.
3. The Pastor in Charge’s tithes will be sent monthly to the District or Regional treasurer.
4. When the Cell Work is declared a Mission, the Minister in Charge will be declared Pastor in Charge, and from that point on, he will be able to extend letters of recommendation and transfer letters, and receive members properly transferring from other congregations, as well as celebrating all ceremonies pertaining to the Mission.
5. Note: Districts and National Missions Regions have the option of assigning dues and other donations.

6. It is recommended that they use the Biblical Expositor of the Apostolic Assembly along with its other educational resources.
7. It is recommended that the Sunday School Department or another form of Christian Education be established.
8. Local treasurers will be named as needed, who will use appropriate bookkeeping practices for the archives of the Mission.
9. The Pastor in Charge will attend the District and National meetings and activities. In National Missions fields, he will attend Regional and National meetings and activities
10. The Pastor in Charge must have a current ministerial credential.
11. An authorized local fund will be created with an EIN.
12. They shall not proselytize anyone from our Apostolic Churches, especially from neighboring Churches.
13. They will continue to be supervised by corresponding authorities. After two years an evaluation will be made to consider being categorized as a Church.

III. CHURCHES

A. WHAT IS A CHURCH?

B. WHEN DOES A MISSION BECOME A CHURCH?

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

1. For this we ask you to read the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus.

WHEN DOES A MISSION BECOME A CHURCH?

1. The Pastor in Charge, along with his immediate corresponding authority, can submit a written request to the appropriate authorities, for the Mission to become a Church. The District or Regional Board, or by default, the General Board, will study the request and determine if the Mission fulfills the requirements necessary to become a Church.
2. The Pastor in Charge can also submit the request to the District Board or the corresponding authority, with the consent of those sponsoring the Mission.

3. The factors that will determine that permission be granted shall include: the Mission already consists of at least 40 baptized members, the length of time it's been operating, their financial strength and the faithfulness with which they have fulfilled their obligations.
4. As a Church, they will be responsible for implementing our organizational, doctrinal, and financial systems.
5. All the auxiliary departments must be organized, such as: Sunday School or another kind of Christian Education, the Men, Ladies, Youth, and Junior Departments. They will establish their local government, naming a treasurer and secretary, as stipulated in our Constitution.
6. When the Mission is declared a Church, the Pastor in Charge will be declared a Pastor.
7. The tithe of tithes will be sent monthly to the General Treasury and the pastoral tithes to the District treasurer or Regional treasurer, if in the National Missions field.
8. The Pastor will attend all District and National activities. Pastors of National Missions Churches must attend all Regional and National activities.
9. They must implement the use of the Apostolic Expositor or other Christian Education resources in their Sunday Schools.
10. The Church and the Pastor will be given two year to fulfill all their obligations, at the end of which time, an evaluation will be made to determine whether the work continues as a Church or returns to being a Mission or whether an extension will be given for them to attempt to fulfill their obligations. The evaluation will also determine whether the Minister will continue as the Pastor or another is installed.
11. For other details, we suggest that you consult the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus or your Bishop Supervisor.

IV. CELL WORKS

A. WHAT IS A CELL WORK?

B. WHO CAN ESTABLISH CELL WORKS?

C. HOW DO CELL WORKS OPERATE?

WHAT IS A CELL WORK?

1. “Cell Work” is the term that has been adopted to call the planting of a “New Work” using the cellular method of the Strategy of Jesus, with the vision of establishing a future Church.

WHO CAN ESTABLISH CELL WORKS?

1. A Pastor, having the prior approval of the Bishop Supervisor, can establish Cell Works.
2. No minister can arbitrarily establish a Cell Work.

HOW DO CELL WORKS OPERATE?

1. The local church that establishes them will sponsor the Cell Work.
2. Ministers that care for the Cell Work shall be considered “Ministers in Charge” (Note: if he already is an ordained minister). An Initiated Deacon can open a Cell Work if no Minister is available. After one year (or whatever is agreed upon by the corresponding authorities), the Deacon can be considered for ordination. Once this has been accomplished, the Deacon can receive the aforementioned title.
3. The Minister in Charge and all members of the Cell Work will send their tithes to the treasury of the local sponsoring church.
4. They will receive a one-year trial period, at the end of which, an evaluation will be conducted, and if merited, will receive an extension.
5. They shall not proselytize. However, the local pastor can assign members of the congregation to help the Minister in Charge.
6. Ministers in Charge cannot extend letters of recommendation or transfer letters, nor receive members from other churches, without the authorization of the corresponding authorities.
7. The corresponding authorities shall supervise the financial obligations and activities of the Cell Work.
8. Cell Works cannot obtain an EIN nor open bank accounts.

9. The Ministers in Charge will attend District meetings and activities or Regional meetings and activities in the National Missions fields.
10. When a Cell Work baptizes 20 persons and has established at least 4 Friendship Groups, or when the local pastor feels it's time, the Cell Work can be turned over to the District or the Region, if in the National Missions field, to be declared a Mission.
11. From the start of the new Cell Work, the distance between one church and another must be considered. It is recommended that there be flexibility in the minimum distance in a metropolitan area and that this be determined by agreement of the District Board of Directors or the Regional leadership in National Missions, the Pastor who sponsors the new Cell Work, and the pastors closest to the proposed site of the new Cell Work.

V. **MISSIONS**

A. **WHAT IS A MISSION?**

B. **HOW DO MISSIONS OPERATE?**

WHAT IS A MISSION?

1. When a Cell Work has 20 or more members that they have baptized, the Bishop, Elder, and Pastor will make the necessary arrangements to declare it a Mission.
2. The decision will be made by the Bishop, the Elder, and the Pastor to name the one leading the Cell Work as "Pastor in Charge", or if necessary, will name another minister to assume the responsibility.

HOW DO MISSIONS OPERATE?

The Mission will assume the following responsibilities:

1. As a Mission, they will be responsible for implementing our organizational, doctrinal, and financial systems of operation.
2. The Mission will not send the tithe of tithes to the General Treasury until after it becomes a Church.
3. The Pastor in Charge's tithes will be sent monthly to the District or Regional treasurer and will be returned by the District to strengthen the local fund.

4. When the Cell Work is declared a Mission, the Minister in Charge will be declared Pastor in Charge, and from that point on, he will be able to extend letters of recommendation and transfer letters, and receive members properly transferring from other congregations, as well as celebrating all ceremonies pertaining to the Mission.
5. Note: Districts and National Missions Regions have the option of assigning dues or other donations.
6. It is recommended that they use the Biblical Expositor of the Apostolic Assembly along with its other educational resources.
7. It is recommended that the Sunday School Department or another form of Christian Education be established.
8. Local treasurers will be named as needed, who will use appropriate bookkeeping practices for the archives of the Mission.
9. They can decide to buy a meeting place to use as a temple, with the approval of the corresponding supervising authorities.
10. The Pastor in Charge will attend the District and National meetings and activities. In National Missions fields, he will attend Regional and National meetings and activities.
11. The Pastor in Charge must have a current ministerial credential.
12. The Mission will be authorized to create a local treasury fund.
13. They will not proselytize anyone from our Apostolic Churches, especially from neighboring Churches.
14. They will continue to be supervised by corresponding authorities. After two years an evaluation will be made to consider being categorized as a Church

VI. CHURCHES

A. WHAT IS A CHURCH?

B. WHEN DOES A MISSION BECOME A CHURCH?

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

1. For this we ask you to read the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus.

WHEN DOES A MISSION BECOME A CHURCH?

1. The Pastor in Charge, along with his immediate corresponding authority, can submit a written request to the appropriate authorities, for the Mission to become a Church. The District or Regional Board, or by default, the General Board, will study the request and determine if the Mission fulfills the requirements necessary to become a Church.
2. The Pastor in Charge can also submit the request to the District Board or the corresponding authority, with the consent of those sponsoring the Mission.
3. The factors that will determine that permission be granted shall include: the Mission already consists of at least 40 baptized members and has established at least 10 Friendship Groups, the length of time it has been operating, their financial strength and the faithfulness with which they have fulfilled their obligations.
4. As a Church, they will be responsible for implementing our organizational, doctrinal, and financial systems.
5. All the auxiliary departments must be organized, such as: Sunday School or another form of Christian Education, the Men, Ladies, Youth, and Junior Departments. They will establish their local government, naming a treasurer and secretary, as stipulated in our Constitution.
6. When the Mission is declared a Church, the Pastor in Charge will be declared a Pastor.
7. The tithe of tithes will be sent monthly to the General Treasury and the pastoral tithes to the District treasurer or Regional treasurer, if in the National Missions field.
8. The Pastor will attend all District and National activities. Pastors of National Missions Churches must attend all Regional and National activities.
9. They must implement the use of the Apostolic Expositor or other Christian Education resources in their Sunday Schools.

10. The Church and the Pastor will be given two year to fulfill all their obligations, at the end of which time, an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the work continues as a Church or returns to being a Mission or whether an extension will be given for them to attempt to fulfill their obligations. The evaluation will also determine whether the Minister will continue as the Pastor or another is installed.
11. For other details, we suggest that you consult the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus or your Bishop Supervisor.

