

GOVERNMENTAL OR BOARD STRUCTURE OF A NEW CHURCH

The official church board of all new churches shall be the District Superintendent as President and Chairman, the District Secretary-Treasurer as legal Secretary, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, the Director of Church Planting and Development together with the Pastor, as required by the RMDC Bylaws. Because of time and geographical constraints, it will probably not be feasible for this official board to serve as a month to month *working* board. Thus, the following guidelines are given for the implementation of an advisory board structure for a new church. It is to be understood that the advisory board serves under the authority of the official church board, as required by the RMDC Bylaws.

I. SELECTION OF NEW CHURCH BOARD

- A. In the PARENT CHURCH format, the Parent Church itself will be responsible for nominating prospective advisory board members to the Church Planting Multiplication Team. These advisory board members may be from the Parent Church Board, members of the Parent Church congregation, founding members of the new church, neighboring A/G pastors, or neighboring A/G church leaders. It is to be understood that the Parent Church Pastor, the District Superintendent, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, and the Director of Church Planting and Development will be ex-officio members of the new church advisory board. Chairmanship of the new church advisory board will be determined by the Parent Church Pastor in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter, Church Planting Multiplication Team Chairman, and new church Pastor.
 - 1. Meetings of the new church advisory board will take place at least every two months. All advisory and official board members must be informed of the date, time and location of these meetings.
 - 2. The new church pastor will give monthly ministry and financial reports to the new church advisory board. (*Sample of forms included on pages 30-31.*) Copies of these monthly reports along with copies of the advisory board meeting minutes must be sent to all advisory and official board members.

- B. When the DISTRICT COUNCIL method is used to begin the church, the District Presbytery, in consultation with the new church pastor and Church Planting Multiplication Team Chairman, shall appoint the new church advisory board. It is to be understood that the District Superintendent, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, and the Director of Church Planting and Development will be ex-officio members of the new church advisory board. Chairmanship of the new church advisory board will be determined by the District Presbytery.
 - 1. Meetings of the new church advisory board will take place at least every two months. All advisory and official board members must be informed of the date, time and location of these meetings.
 - 2. The new church pastor will give monthly ministry and financial reports to the new church advisory board. (*Sample of forms included on pages 30-31.*) Copies of these monthly reports along with copies of the advisory board meeting minutes must be sent to all advisory and official board members.

- C. When the SECTION method is used to begin the church, the Sectional Committee will be responsible for nominating prospective advisory board members to the [new church board](#). It is to be understood that the District Superintendent, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, and the Director of Church Planting and Development will be ex-officio members of the new church advisory board. Chairmanship of the new church advisory board will be determined by the Sectional Presbyter.

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 2. The new church pastor will give monthly ministry and financial reports to the new church advisory board. *(Sample of forms included on pages 30-31.)* Copies of these monthly reports along with copies of the advisory board meeting minutes must be sent to all advisory and official board members.
- D. In the INDIVIDUAL CHURCH PLANTER format, the Church Planting Multiplication Team Chairman, in consultation with the ICP, Sectional Presbyter, and Church Planting Multiplication Team, shall appoint the new church advisory board. It is to be understood that the District Superintendent, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, and the Director of Church Planting and Development will be ex-officio members of the new church advisory board. Chairmanship of the new church advisory board will be determined by the Church Planting Multiplication Team Chairman and the ICP.
1. Meetings of the new church advisory board will take place at least every two months. All advisory and official board members must be informed of the date, time and location of these meetings.
 2. The new church pastor will give monthly ministry and financial reports to the new church advisory board. *(Sample of forms included on pages 30-31.)* Copies of these monthly reports along with copies of the advisory board meeting minutes must be sent to all advisory and official board members.
- E. When the Fresh Start method is used to begin the church, the Sectional Committee will be responsible for nominating prospective advisory board members to the [new church board](#). It is to be understood that the District Superintendent, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, and the Director of Church Planting and Development will be ex-officio members of the new church advisory board. Chairmanship of the new church advisory board will be determined by the Sectional Presbyter, in consultation with the Director of Church Planting and approved church planter.
1. Meetings of the new church advisory board will take place at least every two months. All advisory and official board members must be informed of the date, time and location of these meetings.
 2. The new church pastor will give monthly ministry and financial reports to the new church advisory board. *(Sample of forms included on pages 30-31.)* Copies of these monthly reports along with copies of the advisory board meeting minutes must be sent to all advisory and official board members.

II. Relationship Between the Pastor and New Church Advisory Board

It is vital that the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace exists among those who give leadership to the church. A schism among those in authority will filter down to the body of believers producing confusion and frustration. It is imperative that the pastor share his vision with the church advisory board. The advisory board should do all it can to understand and facilitate that vision. Together, pastor and advisory board can develop steps which will help the vision come to pass. Typically, pastors are visionary and aggressive. Church advisory boards tend to be practical minded and conservative. Like a kite and string, both can work together extremely well when they catch the wind of the Spirit.

The pastor and advisory board members should get to know one another outside of the board room. The first century church leaders were “taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.” In fellowship we find out the “humanness” of those we work with. We need each other. Celebrate each others birthdays and anniversaries. Make impromptu calls. Pray heartily for those who sit around the board room table. Finally - remember the high privilege it is to give a local church leadership, and thank God for the part you play in making your church a better place to worship.