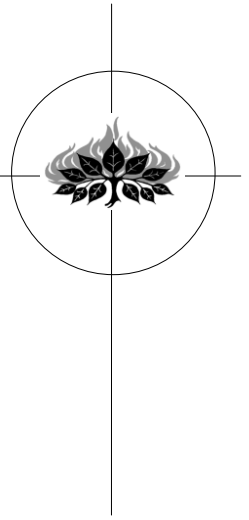


# The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY  
Canadian Ministries

## Forming a Mission November 2013

### Question:

When a presbytery forms a mission, what body is responsible for its care and oversight?

### Answer:

Presbytery

### Principles:

The mission will function as a body within the PCC and according to PCC governance.

The mission will ultimately be accountable to the presbytery.

The presbytery shall promote and support the mission to fulfil its gospel ministry.

### Governance Options:

- Presbytery erects a congregation

The Book of Forms is clear that a group of people who reside within the bounds of a presbytery and declare adherence to the principles and standards of The Presbyterian Church in Canada may apply to that presbytery to be formed as a congregation. The presbytery would need to ascertain that appropriate ministry is being provided and funding is available.

Presbytery could appoint an assessor session to facilitate this discernment, oversee the administration of the sacraments and receive members. In due course elders would be elected from within the congregation and could gradually replace the assessor elders. The assessor session would report to the presbytery and could also appoint a board of managers or form a finance and maintenance committee of the session to handle finances.

If in the future finances (from whatever sources) are not able to sustain the ministry, the congregation would be dissolved.

- Presbytery establishes a mission and appoints an assessor session to oversee the ministry  
In this case, while a congregation is not yet formed, an assessor session could still provide the necessary governance link to the presbytery and authority to oversee the administration of sacraments, hold meetings, approve financial matters, etc. As a temporary measure, the assessor session could admit interested people to the fellowship of the mission and receive them as members of the PCC once a congregation is established. At that point they are added to the congregational roll of membership.
- Presbytery establishes a mission and gives oversight responsibility to an existing committee of presbytery  
Appropriate, clear and comprehensive terms of reference for the committee's oversight of the mission should be put into a document. (e.g. - The Missions Committee shall have the authority to approve requests for baptism and the celebration of sacraments. The Missions Committee shall appoint a treasurer for the congregation and oversee financial reviews on a quarterly basis.)
- Presbytery establishes a mission and appoints a steering committee to oversee the ministry  
Provided the presbytery gives clear authority to a steering committee (and this should be specified in a comprehensive document) this could work much the same way option 2 would work.