**Congregational Life Commission (CCL)**

**Revised May 2, 2017**

**Purpose**

To promote and nurture healthy, faith-filled relationships, within and among congregations, and the presbytery through facilitation, communication, and coordination. Overall commission responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following tasks:

* Define, plan, and implement training for commission members and teams of the commission.
* Organize, receive, merge, dismiss, and dissolve congregations, in consultation with members, through recommendation and requests of Administrative Commissions appointed by the presbytery to such work.
* Promote peace and harmony of congregations.
* Regulate or assist, as necessary, with the location of new congregations.
* Request administrative commissions with the full power of sessions
* Take jurisdiction over members of dissolved congregations.
* Authorize the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at meetings, fellowship, New Church Developments, New Worshipping Communities and other non-congregational entities.
* Serve in judicial matters as necessary.
* Provide for CCL gatherings.
* Support the connectional relationship with and between Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly.
* Respond to and address overtures from or to Councils and General Assembly.

To achieve these purposes, the following four (4) specialized teams will engage congregations, and the Presbytery.

**Congregational Support Team Responsibilities**

* Initial contact point for congregations for assessment, support, and/or referral to another CCL team for deeper support, working cooperatively with the congregation and/or team for resolution.
* Mediation and support (MAST) – Working in partnership with the Commission for Church Professionals (CCP), specific trained members of CCL and CCP can assist or counsel a session in the resolution of difficulties within the congregation to restore its peace and harmony. This may include, but not be limited to, the removal and discipline teaching elders by CCP.
* Train sessions in conflict resolution and leadership.
* Facilitate relationships between and within congregations and the presbytery.

**Congregational Connections Team Responsibilities**

* Assess congregational needs.
* Work in partnership with CCP to provide liaisons to congregations.
* Maintain open communication regarding the life and ministry of each congregation.
* Review Session records.

**Congregational Strategy Team Responsibilities**

* Provide support and referrals to deeper support if necessary.
* Provide resources, training, and connections for new church development and church transformation.
* Coordinate congregational transformation/redevelopment.
* Coordinate new church development.

**Congregational Transitions Team Responsibilities**

* Oversee congregations without pastors.
* Exercise pastoral care to congregations without pastors.
* Assist in assessing leadership needs, reviewing financial forecasts, and recommending viable options for the congregation.
* Training in the pastoral search process, including procedural assistance with the development of the Ministry Information Form if a search is deemed appropriate.
* Moderating as needed