



Presbytery of the Central Carolinas

Mobilizing church leaders to make disciples and plant churches for gospel transformation.

Thank you for inquiring about the Presbytery of the Central Carolinas. We're glad you found us and are excited about the possibility of gospel partnership.

We understand that you have begun the informal process of gathering information about the Evangelical Presbyterian Church [EPC] and the Presbytery of the Central Carolinas [PCC]. If you haven't done so already, please download and fill out the [Inquiring Church Packet](#) and let Robert Howard, our [Stated Clerk](#), know that you would like to start this process.

The next step in the process is to get to know one another better. This task is overseen by the Church Development Committee [CDC] within the PCC. The CDC considers this period in time to be analogous to a dating relationship. We are getting to know one another, building trust and understanding over time. Our hope is that the following information helps you find out more about us and clearly communicates the steps in the process so that there are no surprises along the way.

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. We consider ourselves Presbyterian in polity, Reformed in theology, Evangelical in spirit, and Missional in purpose. We are committed to 1) church planting, 2) church health, 3) creating a culture of effective biblical leadership, and 4) supporting the global mission of the Church. More information about the EPC can be found [here](#).

As a presbytery of the EPC, the Presbytery of the Central Carolinas has our own specific DNA, which is to "*mobilize church leaders to make disciples and plant churches for gospel transformation.*" In our pursuit of this, we have five committees that oversee the business of the Presbytery: the Ministerial Committee, Church Development Committee, Church Planting Committee, World Outreach, and Stewardship Committee. You can read more about us [here](#).

As a committee of the PCC, the Church Development Committee is committed to being a resource to enable our churches to fulfill the great commission. As such, the CDC has been tasked with bringing in

new churches through a defined and strategic process. Our goal through this process is to clearly communicate who we are, get to know you, and determine if we are a good fit.

The Process

1. **Read through the information:** Have your Session read through the information provided in this packet. You should have already connected with the Stated Clerk.
2. **Pray:** As you work through the information, pray that the Holy Spirit gives you wisdom about moving forward into the EPC as a church. Use this time to discern and study if entering into the EPC is the right move for your church.
3. **Ensure alignment:** After reading the Essentials of our Faith, the Position Papers, the EPC Statement on Scripture, the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and the EPC Book of Order (see section below), make sure that your Session and pastor(s) align with these.
4. **Answer questions:** Fill out the [questionnaire](#) to provide the needed information about your church. Responses will automatically be sent to the Chair of the Church Development Committee [Anita Hill](#).
5. **Ask questions:** Make a note of any exceptions or questions that come up in the provided area.
6. **Submit questionnaire:** Submit the notes, exceptions, and questions you filled out to the [CDC Chair](#).
7. **Information review:** The CDC will review your questionnaire and determine the best way to move forward with your church. A member of the CDC will reach out as your liaison in the process. If needed, an informal meeting will take place by Zoom or in person to continue to determine fit. As the process moves forward, the CDC will work with you to customize a path for your church. Some options include a revitalization process to strengthen and renew the church, a reclassification process to change the church to a Mission Church and work towards revitalization, or a dissolution process if the CDC and your church sense that the church's life-cycle has come to a close.
8. **Authorized Commission:** Once the CDC determines the plan for forward movement in the PCC, your church must 1) call for a congregational meeting to be dismissed from the current presbytery and be received by the PCC, 2) upon approval from the congregation, submit an Application, Letter of Intent and [Petition to be Received](#), and 3) (if applicable) seek dismissal from your current presbytery and be dismissed. Concurrently your Teaching Elder must request reception into the PCC by contacting the [Ministerial Committee](#). After you are dismissed from your current presbytery, the CDC will recommend an Administrative Commission to the PCC, which Presbytery will review and approve for your church.
9. **Face-to-face meeting:** The Administrative Commission, including the CDC liaison, will meet in-person with church leadership in order to move through the rest of the process.
10. **Leadership Training:** The church leadership will begin a multi-week study preparing for elder examination with the help of the Administrative Commission. More information is below.
11. **Church Revitalization Seminar:** Your congregation must send leaders to a Church Revitalization Seminar with our [Church Health](#) team that helps the church realign its vision and mission with the Great Commission.
12. **Elder Examination:** Church leadership will be examined by the Administrative Commission following the leadership training.

13. **Reception:** After successful completion of the above, at a PCC Presbytery meeting, the presbytery will receive the church and a date of service will be set for installation and ordination.
14. **Celebration:** The Administrative Commission will lead an installation service as a reception into the EPC.

Teaching Elders will be examined separately and should contact the [Ministerial Committee](#).

Standards

Do you affirm?

- [Essentials of our Faith](#)
 - [Position Papers](#)
 - [EPC Statement on Scriptures](#)
 - [Westminster Confession of Faith](#)
 - [Larger](#) and [Shorter Catechisms](#)
 - [EPC Book of Order](#)
- Please read through the following linked documents. Most can be found [here](#). Please take the time to read through the documents thoroughly as individuals and to discuss them together as a Session. Make sure that you affirm these documents as a Session and church.
- Please note questions or exceptions in the Notes and Questions section below.

Expectations

Becoming a part of the PCC is a multi step process. Meeting the expectations of this preliminary phase typically takes 12 months or more to complete and to prepare your church to join the EPC.

Expectations

- Leadership Training
- Undergo Church Health/Revitalization Process
- Church Revitalization Seminar

Noted above, these expectations are essential to the partnership process. Upon formation of an Administrative Commission, all elders and church leaders will undergo PCC leadership training with the CDC liaison as your guide. This training will include self study, video instruction with approximately 12 sessions, and meetings to cover and review weekly topics.

Additionally, we expect your church to walk through the transformational Church Health process with the CDC, which includes Session attendance at a Church Revitalization Seminar.

What is the Church Health Process? Many churches struggle to carry out the stated mission of the EPC to be Evangelical and Missional.

Our process of revitalization focuses on church leadership and seeks to guide church leadership to

- 1) Make The Great Commission central to both vision and strategy,

- 2) Create an intentional shift in thinking from “ministry *to* the congregation to missional ministry *through* the congregation,”
- 3) Assure that all ministries in the local church are aligned with the vision and strategy. Churches should always be asking the question, “How does God want to express Himself specifically through our church, in our community, at this time?”
- 4) Help church leadership embrace the importance of living missionally as a key part of their leadership effectiveness.
- 5) Assist Ruling Elders on Session to recognize and embrace that they are co-leaders and partners with the Teaching Elders.

You can read more about Church Health [here](#).

Notes & Questions

Please list any exceptions, notes, and questions you have about the process, the PCC, or the EPC?

Summary

We are excited about the dialogue that has begun between your church and the Presbytery of the Central Carolinas, and we look forward to getting to know your church, your community, your history, and where God may be taking you in the future. As we get to know one another better, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions to the Stated Clerk or your CDC liaison.