

MISSION HAWAII

A part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)



By-Laws

Revised January 3, 2013

ARTICLE 1 - NAME, OPERATING CONSENSUS

1.1 The name of the organization is Mission Hawaii. Mission Hawaii is a voluntary church-planting network of participating PCA churches. Its targeted mission field is the Hawaiian Islands.

1.2 Since there are now, and may be in the future, other church planting networks operating within Northern California Presbytery, it is not the intent or desire of Mission Hawaii to compete or to entice churches that are in these networks to become participants in Mission Hawaii. Rather it is the desire of Mission Hawaii to find ways to share, cooperate, and compliment the work of these other networks to the glory of God and his Kingdom, with particular respect to the Hawaiian Islands. Therefore participating churches in these other networks are not eligible for participation in Mission Hawaii.

1.3 Mission Hawaii will operate according to its stated by-laws, particularly *The Vision and Purpose Statement*, *The Philosophy of Ministry Summary* and *The Charter*. These documents may be amended by a majority of the member churches. However, amendment of these documents allows for early, negotiated withdrawal from the network as described.

1.4 The initial meeting of the Mission Hawaii Board of Directors will be held as soon as practical after the Sessions of the three currently particularized PCA churches in Hawaii have agreed to join Mission Hawaii and have approved these Standing Rules.

ARTICLE 2 – THE VISION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

2.1 Mission Hawaii seeks to magnify God’s glory in the gathering and discipline of his elect by helping to fund new churches and college ministries in the Hawaiian Islands. Our vision is to raise up churches that engage, challenge and serve their neighborhoods and, ultimately, the Hawaiian Islands through the power and application of the gospel.

2.2 The purpose of Mission Hawaii is to work within the courts of the Church as a servant organization to assist Northern California Presbytery to help plant theologically sound, evangelistically faithful and culturally relevant churches by four means: 1) recruiting church planters and campus ministers for consideration by Presbytery, 2) strategically planting new PCA churches and RUF ministries on college campuses, 3) providing coaching and shepherding

for church planters and their wives and 4) providing financial resources for these activities, all directed to the particular mission field of the Hawaiian Islands.

2.3 While we recognize that Christ's Kingdom extends across the boundaries of many denominations and communions, we believe that denominational boundaries exist for good and healthy reasons. Therefore, while we encourage the growth of our partner denominations, the church-planting network Mission Hawaii exists specifically to plant member churches of the Presbyterian Church in America.

ARTICLE 3 – THE PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY SUMMARY

3.1 The Philosophy of Ministry Summary is intended to help provide structure and strategies for decision-making in our church planting efforts. Given that Jesus' early and last words to us in the New Testament reflect blessings, we earnestly desire that our actions will reflect the same gracious spirit. If we hope to engage the lost and broken with Christ, then we must demonstrate his grace to one another.

3.2 There is general agreement among us that more important than any particular church planting vision is the sincere intention on the part of everyone involved in the process of selecting and/or supporting a given church planter to ensure that he will meet the profile that Mission Hawaii has agreed upon in order to qualify for the Network's support.

3.3 Discussion of particular issues will always be possible at the initial point in the selection and/or support process, and a man's teachable spirit will be the key point in cases where a man's views are undeveloped or where he may have indicated in some way that he holds views that might appear to be inconsistent with the Network's profile.

3.4 In this context of mutual trust, the Network has recognized the following philosophy of ministry goals that illustrate member churches' shared affinities and aversions. While this list is more representative than definitive, these "ministry goals" help focus our resources and communicate our general ministry philosophy to prospective planters.

3.5 Characteristic Philosophy of Ministry Goals:

- Central emphasis on expository preaching that engages the heart
- Commitment to biblically and theologically driven worship that engages the local culture
- Commitment to "gathering" of the elect by biblical evangelism and mercy
- Commitment to the "perfecting" of the saints through educational discipleship ministries
- Commitment to cultural engagement through dialog, service and practical apologetics
- The practice of central corporate ministries:
 - The practice of the Lord's Supper at least once a month
 - The regular exercise of corporate prayer
 - The long-term commitment to a full Lord's Day ministry
 - The vision to plant more churches

3.6 Particular characteristics in the Church Planter (not intended as a complete list):

- Does the planter's commitment to the Reformed Faith include a robust understanding of and confidence in the Gospel of Grace both for himself, his church and his community?
- Is the planter an effective leader that people will follow?
- Is the planter's marriage an asset or a liability?
- Has the planter demonstrated that he is a team player?
- Does the planter have a history of personal and ministry outreach and evangelism?
- Are the planter and his wife willing to put down roots and love the people of the community long-term?
- Can the planter and his wife reach out effectively to people different from themselves?
- Can the planter exegete his community and apply a philosophy of ministry suitable for that context?
- Does the planter have an assessment qualification of "PQ" or higher?
- Is the planter ordainable as a minister in the PCA?
- Is the planter willing to commit to planting a PCA church?
- Does the planter have the ability and willingness to raise funds?

3.7 Characteristic Philosophy of Ministry Aversions:

- Celebration of the Lord's Supper infrequently or irregularly
- A broadly evangelical and shallow doctrinal and creedal emphasis
- A restrictive "reformed church identity" and isolationist ministry emphasis
- A restrictive misapplication of the regulative principle to the worship of the Church exhibited, for example, in the exclusive use of the psalms or non-instrumental worship
- Tendencies toward Theonomy or Reformed fundamentalism
- "Single school" philosophy of ministry focus that becomes what the church is "known for," for example, "Home Schooling", "Sonship" or "Mission", *etc.*

3.8 The gift mix and planting experience of each particular planter will vary. The gift mix and planting experience called for by any particular site will also vary. Therefore, every church planter should be considered only in relation to a specific site. Any site-specific qualifications for the planter that are recommended to Mission Hawaii will be considered in evaluating the proposal for a new work.

ARTICLE 4 – THE CHARTER

4.1 Mission Hawaii shall be composed of the contributing churches, which are the members of the Network. The Network members will meet through their representatives on the Board of Directors (Board) at least bi-annually at a time a place determined by the Chairman of the Board.

4.2 Amendments to the Vision and Purpose Statement, The Philosophy of Ministry Summary and The Charter may be proposed either by the Board of Directors or a Member Church and must be approved by the sessions of two-thirds of the Member Churches.

The Board of Directors

4.3 The Board of Directors is composed of two representatives, either a Teaching or Ruling Elder, from each Member church, except for churches with over 700 communing members who may name three voting members to the Mission Hawaii Board of Directors. The Chairman of the MNA committee of the Northern California Presbytery is also a voting member of the Board. For the sake of continuity, representatives serve a minimum term of three years; however, they may serve indefinitely at the discretion of their member church's Session or organizing pastor.

4.4 The Board of Directors has no authority to change its powers, alter the Vision and Purpose Statement, modify the Philosophy of Ministry Summary or alter the Charter. The Board of Directors has final authority to approve all mission works and financial support decisions. It approves and releases support funds, oversees and disburses checks and financial reports, and receives and directs all formal Network communications.

4.5 Once a quorum of the Board is established, a two-thirds majority of members present and voting is required to approve actions or commit any support. Normally no single project will receive more than 45% of its funding from the Network during a twelve-month period. If compelling reasons convince the Board of Directors that a project should receive a greater percentage of the Network's funds, special funding can be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of Board members present and voting of the Board. .

4.6 The Board of Directors shall have three officers: Chairman: Proposes the meeting agenda, moderates the meetings and is a voting member. Secretary: Keeps the minutes and other records, writes communiqués, etc. Treasurer: Oversees the financial operations of the Network including payments, and recording income and compliance with IRS and other regulations. Board officers are chosen by the Board of Directors by simple majority. Office terms are three years with no limit on the number of terms a member may serve.

4.7 The Board of Directors will meet at least bi-annually, on the dates set by the Chairman of the Board. One-third of the Board of Directors members may request a called meeting as needed. Prior notice of all meetings is to be sent via email to each Board member including a brief description of the agenda. Minutes including notice of all decisions will be sent to member churches via email within two weeks following the meeting. The quorum for the Board of Directors shall consist of a simple majority of the Board of Directors, but in all cases no less than 3. In the event a Board member is providentially hindered from attending in person, he may attend by telephone and fully participate, including casting his vote, or, in the alternative, the member church he represents may designate an alternate, who must be an officer of the church, to attend the meeting in person. Individual churches should be responsible for the expenses of their elder representatives for attendance at Mission Hawaii meetings. The Board may handle single issue approvals by electronic mail.

Network Membership

4.8 In order to join the Network an applying church session must agree in writing to the terms of the By-Laws and meet with representative members of the Board of Directors, which has the sole authority to approve requests for membership. New churches must be at full giving no later than three years after being approved for membership. During this period the church has full voting privileges. If a church cannot reach full giving within the three years voting privileges are forfeited.

4.9 Annual Minimum Financial Support Levels for all member churches shall be 3% of their previous calendar year's general operating receipts (not including building or other designated funds) to Mission Hawaii and .25% to Northern California Presbytery. Charter members of the Network and new member churches have three years to meet the stipulated annual minimum financial commitment for membership in the Network. Member churches are required to pay the stipulated financial commitment in either monthly or quarterly payments. Failure to meet the stipulated financial commitment for a period of twelve months shall terminate the membership of a congregation unless the Board of Directors determines that special circumstances warrant the continuation of the church's membership.

4.10 Financially challenged churches may participate in Mission Hawaii. A financially challenged church is an organized church that the Board determines has legitimate financially limiting factors. The Board, at its discretion, may set a lower amount of minimum giving for a church it has determined to be financially challenged so that it may maintain its voting membership. The goal should be to return the church to full funding in the future.

4.11 Should a Member church express its intention to leave the Network, the member church remains obliged to fund its commitment through the end of that calendar year and the year following. (Example: If a church gives notice of intention to withdraw from the Network in December, it remains committed to fund its stipulated obligation for the following thirteen months.)

Finances

4.12 The Treasurer shall be responsible for developing systems for the billing of participating churches on a monthly or quarterly basis. Each participating church will send one check to Mission Hawaii and one check to Northern California Presbytery.

4.13 After authorization by Mission Hawaii's Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall open one or more bank accounts for the funds of Mission Hawaii. Checks written on this account(s) must be signed by the Chairman, the Secretary or the Treasurer of the Network, or other properly authorized individual for amounts up to \$5,000.00 and signed by two of these individuals for amounts of \$5,000.00 or more.

4.14 As appropriate and at least annually, the Board of Directors shall cause an independent review to be made of the financial records of Mission Hawaii and a report made to the Board of Directors.

Works Sponsored by the Network

4.15 Projects must be developed within the parameters of the Network's Operating Consensus Documents. Church planters will provide regular reports to the Board. To receive funds, church planters and mission churches must be in good standing with the Presbytery. Network supported mission churches will be required to begin their benevolent giving with support of the Network. Network churches must agree to full participation in the Network according to the support schedule upon (or before) particularization. Church planting apprentices may be supported at an appropriate rate.

4.16 Network Church planters are required to attend stated and called Network meetings, training and oversight meetings or conferences and to advocate for the Network with churches or church leaders as available. It is expected that church plants will establish Network financial support from the beginning and become full members upon particularization. Each mission project must include at least \$1200 of support for the Network for the first year of congregational giving and reach agreement with the Board or its Directors for each fiscal year thereafter until particularization at which time the standard By-Law support scale and membership initiation policy applies.

4.17 Mission Hawaii must, prior to moving ahead with a new church plant, attend to the following:

- Notify the Northern California Presbytery MNA Committee as soon as a new church plant or a new RUF chapter is being seriously contemplated.
- Consult with the Sessions of other PCA churches near the proposed target area.
- Receive site approval from Northern California Presbytery.
- In the case of a church plant, receive Northern California Presbytery MNA Committee approval of the philosophy of ministry.
- Receive Northern California Presbytery MNA Committee approval of the business plan.
- Arrange for an interview of the organizing pastor or RUF candidate with Northern California Presbytery MNA or RUF Committee and receive their endorsement of the candidate.
- Ensure all candidates satisfy the credential requirements through the Candidates & Credentials Committee of Northern California Presbytery.
- File a report three times a year to the Northern California Presbytery MNA Committee. The Board Chairman or coach will give a summation of each active church planter's report to the MNA Committee at its regularly scheduled meetings if held in conjunction with its regularly scheduled Presbytery meetings. Designated coaches with the help of the Board Chairman will choose two or more church planters to report to the MNA Committee or Presbytery in person. This will be done on a rotating basis.

Recruitment of Church Planters

4.18 The recruitment of church planters will take place through the initiative of Mission Hawaii. Mission Hawaii will also work with a particular church and/or the MNA Committee in the identification and recruitment of a particular planter. The church planter may be recruited to plant a church from scratch or through a core group, or some other team approach (e.g., mother-daughter relationship, multi-site extension, etc.). Mission Hawaii will consider funding a mission work regardless of which option for planting the church is chosen. Mission Hawaii's participation in a particular mission will be evaluated based on the policies and priorities outlined in the by-laws.

4.19 The Board of Directors may, at their discretion, hire a consultant of their choosing to aid and advise in the recruitment and selection of church planters. Given our distance from many of the Reformed seminaries on the mainland it may well be expedient and financially advisable to do so.

4.20 With rare exceptions, Mission Hawaii will call a man to plant only after he has completed a Church Planting Apprenticeship *through Mission Hawaii* prior to planting. Apprenticeships may be 1, 2, or 3 years, depending on the experience of the Apprentice and purpose of his apprenticeship.

4.21 All church planters recruited through Mission Hawaii will be assigned a coach. The coach will connect regularly with the church planter for prayer, encouragement and coaching to facilitate the planter's personal and professional development. The board may recruit a Teaching Elder from Hawaii, or a Teaching Elder from the mainland, provided that he has experience with church planting in cross-cultural contexts and that the Board determines him to be sufficiently aware of Hawaii's unique complexities. In assigning a coach the board should also take into consideration the "fit" that the planter and the coach feel that they have with one another.

4.22 Mission Hawaii (not the planters themselves) will officially retain coaches on an annual, renewable basis as self-employed, independent consultants. Mission Hawaii will pay coaches four times per year, after receiving their reports. As independent consultants, coaches will be responsible for all coaching expenses (e.g., cell phone minutes, books, etc.), with the exception of travel, which will be borne by the church plant. The cost to deliver coaching will be passed on to the church plants as part of their project budget. Coaching fees will be assessed from the church plants by invoicing the church plant for the cost of the coaching fees.

Role in Establishing and Supporting RUF Campus Ministries

4.23 Given the strategic purpose of RUF campus ministries to raise up indigenous church planters, elders and core groups it is within the purpose of Mission Hawaii to help establish RUF campus ministries within the Hawaiian Islands. Mission Hawaii will help establish RUF campus ministries in two ways: 1. Use its recruitment network to identify and recruit potential campus ministers for the consideration of the RUF committee of the Northern

California Presbytery. 2. Make available lump sums of “seed money” for the startup of new RUF campus ministries.

4.24 It is expected that each RUF campus ministry will raise its ongoing support needs from individuals and churches in Hawaii as well as on the mainland. For this reason it is recommended (not required) that all Member churches of Mission Hawaii give at least 1.5% of their annual budget (in addition to their Mission Hawaii giving) directly to an RUF campus ministry, should one be planted.

Termination of Mission Hawaii

4.25 Mission Hawaii will continue in operation unless it is terminated by a two-thirds vote of the total number of Board members and of the sessions of two-thirds of the total number of participating churches.

4.26 In the event of termination of Mission Hawaii, all money, property, or other assets of Mission Hawaii received from or funded by participating churches will, after payment of all legal debts and obligations (including those to church planters), be distributed back to the participating churches on a prorata basis based on the amount of the moneys each paid into Mission Hawaii.

4.27 In the event Mission Hawaii is terminated, all undistributed funds given by individuals shall be handled in one of the following ways:

4.27.1 If after payment of all obligations and with no qualified successor to Mission Hawaii, the donor(s) will be contacted and given the following choices:

1. The actual or prorated remainder of their donation can be returned to them according to all applicable law and the guidelines of any third party fiduciary, if any.
2. The actual or prorated remainder of their donation will be given by Mission Hawaii to the qualified Christian Charity of their choice as long it meets the then prevailing Internal Revenue Service’s, or its successor organization, guidelines for being a tax exempt organization.

4.27.2 If there is a qualified nonprofit successor to Mission Hawaii, the donor(s) will be contacted and given the following choices:

1. The actual or prorated remainder of their donation can be returned to them according to all applicable law and the guidelines of any third party fiduciary, if any.
2. The actual or prorated remainder of their donation will be given by Mission Hawaii to the qualified Christian Charity of their choice as long it meets the then prevailing Internal Revenue Service’s, or its successor organization, guidelines for being a tax exempt organization.
3. All remaining donated funds to be transferred to the successor organization.

Upon motion the document Mission Hawaii Operating Consensus was adopted as amended, January 3rd, 2013, and amended _____, 2013.