

**THE CENTER FOR NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**  
*THE NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

**APPLICATION FOR STARTING A NEW  
CONGREGATION:  
MERGERS OR RELOCATIONS APPLICATION**

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Name of new project \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) submitting information \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date set to start this ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH PREPARATION**

What steps has the church taken to secure buy-in from the congregation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many people from the church(s) do you project will decide to be part of the new church?

\_\_\_\_\_

**TARGETED POPULATION**

Describe briefly the community in which the congregation will be launched.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**For Relocations:** Why does this community need a new local church?

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**For Mergers:** Briefly describe why these churches should merge:

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Describe briefly the target audience within this community.

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What is the numerical population within the prime ministry area?  
(Use MissionInsite: FullInsite Report. Report must be attached.)

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What group will be the target audience?

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What will the projected target population be in 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the predominant ethnic group in the ministry area? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the ethnic group of the target population? \_\_\_\_\_

### ENVISIONED CONGREGATION

Does the church or churches believe that:

- a. 225 adult attendees will make up the average weekly worship attendance within 3 years of the first service?       Yes     No
- b. There will be sufficient giving to financially support the congregation within three to five years?       Yes     No

### MEETING LOCATION

Is there an available facility to accommodate 300 worshippers?       Yes     No

If no, describe the uniqueness of the targeted population that will require less space.

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Please describe the facility (school, storefront, theater, existing church or synagogue facilities, funeral home chapel, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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Has a commitment for its use been secured?       Yes     No

Is there reasonable expectation that the congregation can remain at this location for three to five years?       Yes     No

Is the meeting location within the area of the targeted population?       Yes     No

What is the address of the meeting location? (street address, city and zip code)

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Will the Conference need to renovate/refurbish the facilities?  Yes  No

Is the site at least five (5) miles from other United Methodist churches?  Yes  No

If not, why is this congregation being launched?

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What is the distance to the nearest United Methodist church? \_\_\_\_\_

Who owns the proposed site? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it clear of debt?  Yes  No

If a debt is owed, how much? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the size of the site? \_\_\_\_\_ Acres

Do you have a "fee simple" title?  Yes  No

**For Relocations:** How many buildable acres does the site contain?  
(At least 10 acres recommended) \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE**

Will an office be provided or needed outside of the church or home?  Yes  No

Will at least part-time secretarial help be available?  Yes  No

Will there be budget for a computer, copier, FAX, etc.?  Yes  No

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**HOUSING**

Is there a parsonage? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Will the parsonage meet Conference parsonage standards? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If an existing parsonage is to be reclaimed for use, will it need to be refurbished? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**ADJOINING UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES**

Have all nearby United Methodist Churches been notified of the planning of this new church?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, which churches have been contacted?

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If not, what is the plan to do so?

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**FINANCING**

**Financial Plans:**

The financial plan should be submitted on Appendix 14.

**Conference Support**

What will be the total the Conference will invest in the operation of this new church in the first year as shown in Appendix 14? In the second year? In the third year?

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**Financial Support:**

Will the merger or relocated church receive funds from the following sources during the first year?

1. Contributions from the new congregation?
2. Pledged support from nearby and other District churches (Baby Shower)?

**EVALUATION**

The first formal evaluation will be made 18 months after the appointment of the new church start pastor. The benchmarks used in this evaluation are listed in the guidelines.

**INCORPORATION**

It is expected that when this new church is chartered, it will become incorporated.

Please give any other information which might be of help to the Committee in voting on this request.

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I am aware of the information and requirements listed in the guidelines for this new start including:

- Benchmarks
- Host Church Responsibilities and Oversight
- Finances
- Reporting (Accountability)
- Staff
- Launching (First Worship Service)
- Housing
- Land Issues
- Pastor Role/Training
- Coaching
- Application Process
- Chartering
- Resources

**Please print, sign and include with the Merger application.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor of Merging Church

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor of Merging Church

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of the Center for New Church Development

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**Please print, sign and include with the Relocation Application:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor of Relocating Church

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of the Center for New Church Development