

APPENDIX 8

A Procedure for Receiving an Organized Congregation into a Presbytery

When a presbytery receives an application for membership in the OPC from an organized congregation, stating the reasons which moved it to apply, in accordance with FG XXIX: B.2.a, the following suggested procedure may be employed:

That, in accordance with FG XXIX: B.2.b, the presbytery appoint its home missions committee to respond to the request of _____ Church to be received into the Presbytery of _____ under the following procedural guidelines:

1. That an initial meeting between representatives of the home missions committee and the members of _____ Church will be held on _____ for the purpose of becoming acquainted with each other, explaining the work and ministry of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and reviewing the procedure by which the congregation will be received into the presbytery.

2. That the home missions committee will examine and certify to the presbytery and to the congregation the qualifications of those men who may be approved to serve as elders of the congregation of _____ Church.

3. That the home missions committee will examine and/or certify to the presbytery the credible professions of faith of the members of the congregation of _____ Church.

4. That the home missions committee will work with the session of

_____ Church to revise their official documents, so as to be in conformity with the standards of doctrine, government, discipline, and worship of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

5. That the home missions committee will assist the session of _____ Church in drawing up a suitable call to _____ to be their pastor.

6. That representatives of the home missions committee will be in attendance at a congregational meeting of _____ Church at which their official documents are amended to conform to the standards of doctrine, government, discipline, and worship of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church; their church officers are confirmed by vote; and the call to their pastor is acted upon.

7. That the home missions committee will report its work and recommendations to the presbytery.

When the home missions committee makes its report to the presbytery, the following recommendations are appropriate:

1. That the Presbytery of _____ accede to the request of _____ Church to be received into the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and that they be enrolled as a new and separate congregation of the Regional Church of _____ in accordance with Form of Government XXIX: B.2.

2. That the terms of the call of _____ to _____ Church be approved and that the call be placed in his hands.

3. That a service of recognition and installation be conducted for _____ Church by the Presbytery of _____ on _____, at which time _____ will be installed as their pastor; and that the home missions committee be appointed as a committee on arrangements for the service.