



SAMPLE PHASES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL MODEL

MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE SERIES

Three sample phases are presented that can aid in transitioning a separate group from outside to inside the church as a sister congregation.

SAMPLE PHASES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL MODEL

MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE SERIES

PHASE ONE: MINISTRY OR PREACHING POINT

1. The ministry to the new ethnic group is either a department ministry of the church or a preaching point supervised by the church.
2. The leader of the ethnic ministry is either a staff member or the “shepherd” for the group.
3. A steering committee is elected among the members of the new ministry group.
4. Separate bookkeeping systems are established for the new preaching point.
5. The new preaching point covers its own expenses with occasional donations from the sponsoring church.
6. The sponsoring church board determines, in consultation with the ministry committee, the space available, hours and guidelines for new ministries.

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This material was prepared by Dr. Porter when he was District Superintendent of the Washington District. He is currently a General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene.

PHASE TWO: MINISTRY OR CHURCH TYPE MISSION

1. The group is recognized as a Church Type Mission with a pastor, leaders and a functioning church board.
2. Stewardship responsibilities are emphasized among the members of the ethnic ministry or Church Type Mission.
3. The sponsoring church and district are “partners in ministry”, working with the Church Type Mission.
4. The District Multi-Cultural coordinator and the sponsoring pastor work closely with the new Church Type Mission.
5. Church officers and a church board are elected among the Church Type Mission. Once every three months, there is a joint board meeting for communication between the Church Type Mission and the sponsoring church.
6. At least once every three months, there is a combined worship service.

PHASE THREE: ORGANIZED CHURCH

1. The Church Type Mission requests authorization to be a fully organized church as a branch of the “whole”.
2. Both churches are equals, sharing a building and a mission.
3. A “Multi-Congregational Board” is elected for the whole congregation.
4. Facility use and rental expenses are determined by the “Multi-Congregational Board”.
5. There are quarterly joint worship/fellowship activities between congregations.

POSSIBLE WEAKNESSES OF THIS MODEL

1. Dominance of the “majority” group.

2. Unclear sense of “ownership”
3. Double Input: District and Multi Congregational Board.
4. Mother church loses its original constituency ministry.