**Procedures for Forming a**

**Congregation in Formation (CIF)**

These procedures are for potential congregations ith a core group (or critical mass) of about four or five families or households(10-15 people) wishing to create a formal partnership with Virginia Mennonite Conference as a congregation in formation (CIF).

1. THE CRITERIA FOR A “CONGREGATION IN FORMATION” (CIF)
   1. A group will have been meeting on a regular basis for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and mutual caring.
   2. The group of believers will consist of at least four or five households (a core group of at least ten to fifteen persons) who desire to become a new congregation.
   3. An established congregation will be enlisted as a partner or sister congregation for the CIF. The leadership of this congregation may provide counsel and resources as discerned to be appropriate, and carry the church membership of the credentialed leader and core group leaders.

1. STEPS TO BECOMING A CONGREGATION IN FORMATION
   1. The CIF will select a name for its own identity.
   2. The core group, as defined in I, will contact their district’s oversight leader, and provide a written report showing the projections and plan for this developing congregation.
   3. The Oversight Leader, along with other leaders in that district, shall review the group’splans and projections~~.~~
   4. The district council will take action to establish the group as a “congregation in formation.”
   5. District Council shall forward to VMC for Conference Council approval a copy of the minutes showing the action taken by the District Council
2. THREE-YEAR REVIEW
   1. CIF status will normally be in effect for up to three years.
   2. Near the end of the first three years, the leaders of the partner or sister congregation and the CIF shall discern whetherto apply for congregational status (process outlined in the VMC bylaws), request an extension of the CIF status from the district and Conference Council, or disband.

Revised January 2007 and adopted by Conference Council (CC 07:04) for use by district leadership

Revised with counsel from Faith & Life Committee, 4/10/15.

/apm