

Initial Role and Responsibilities of the District Council

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Dear District Pastors and Community Leaders,

Following is an important description of the initial role and responsibilities of the District Council. Please use it in educating members in your communities as they begin voting for District Council members.

Thank you,

David Rendel

INITIAL ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

This initial election of District Council members is an interim step until a written National Charter is completed by the National Advisory Council. At that time, the roles and responsibilities of the District Pastor and District Council will be finalized.

Primary Responsibility

In this interim period, the primary responsibility of the District Council is to:

- Recommend a choice for District Pastor
- Recommend a choice for National Council representative
- Agree on how the District Council will function in the interim period

Ongoing Responsibilities

On an ongoing basis, the District Council is responsible for:

Approving the Annual District Budget. The District Office will prepare a proposed annual budget which should be discussed, reviewed and approved by the Council. We recognize that this may be a new practice for some Districts, but it will bring financial accountability.

Recommending or approving key personnel or structural decisions, including

- The establishment of local churches
- The establishment of local Councils
- The establishment of any District Department
- Appointment, approval or removal of District Department Leaders
- Appointment, approval or removal of local Pastors

Discussing important issues with the District Pastor. Once selected and approved, the District Pastor should join the Council. In the case of a tie, he or she will cast the deciding vote. As elected representatives of the membership, council members can bring up issues of concern to the district.

Comments and Best Practices

-- The position of District Council member is a voluntary position that should not require more than a few evenings per month. As well, it is only for a limited term. It is hoped that most church members would feel comfortable taking on this important responsibility if asked by their peers. A council can decide how it wishes to work together, which may vary from one district to another. Please remember that we are looking for feedback over the next few months as we agree on a standard for the future.

-- In the future, It is expected that local churches that are large enough will establish their own Councils under the auspices of the District. The structure for this will be included in the National Charter.

-- Different Districts will have different challenges due to size or geography. For example, a District office with several large communities may have a smaller role than the communities it serves. This is OK – the role of the District is to foster independent local development.

-- It is best for the District Council to meet in person. However, that may not be practical over a large area. It is suggested that the first meeting be in person. After that, the Council can decide what works best. In some cases a conference call or even Web Conference is possible. Monthly meetings are recommended.

-- From experience, the Council system works best when Council members get involved with various District functions. For example, one Council member is involved with ministerial outreach, another with Youth Ministry, etc. This provides great assistance to the District Pastor and also helps the Council to be informed of what is happening in the District. Of course, this requires more commitment from Council members. This is not a requirement for this first election, but the Council can discuss how it wants to function. In the WestRock (Westchester/Rockland NY) Council, it was decided to make this a rule.

-- In WestRock, the Council also holds an annual retreat to discuss the goals and vision for the community. This has proven to bring great team unity.