

ADOPTING A CRC CHURCH

A Guide for Multi-Site CRC Churches when Adopting a Congregation into their Organization

By Pastor Bill Vasilakis (National Chairman) October 2021

Sometimes a local church can decline in health to the point of being in a critical condition.

This can happen for a variety of reasons.

To Churches that might find themselves in this situation:

Please do not close! The last thing we want to see is local churches closing down when there are options available to bring new life and health to a congregation.

If you're not sure what to do, reach out for help. Here are some guidelines.

1. Start a conversation with your State Chairman or State Executive Officers. If there is a leadership struggle or issue causing difficulties, they can give wise advice on how to outwork the necessary remedial action that needs to be embraced.
2. If there are serious financial or governance issues, it is sometimes helpful to add an experienced CRC Pastor with leadership and business experience to your Board for a period of secondment. Consult your State Chairman before inviting the person.
3. If you're struggling to resource and maintain weekly services with preachers, musicians, kids workers etc. talk with a larger CRC Church about helping you with this for a season or two.
4. Determine whether these are temporary measures to help restore health so that the local church becomes more viable and continues to govern itself, or whether a more permanent solution is required such as change of leadership or organizationally

joining one of our larger multi-site CRC Churches. This again needs to be outworked in consultation with your State Chairman and needs to be endorsed by your State Executive.

To Multi-Site Churches Considering the Adoption of a Church:

1. Go slow, as these are sensitive and complex matters, especially for long term contributing members. There are cultural alignment issues that need to be talked through in a caring and methodical way
2. Consult your State Chairman **before any** permanent decisions are made, especially where property is involved and when it's an older generational church.
3. The State Executive needs to **endorse** this adoption **before** it is implemented to ensure unity of purpose in our CRC family.
4. A protocol or Memorandum of Understanding for clarity and transparency needs to be framed and signed by the State Executive, the Adopting Church and the Adopted Church.