

# **Affirmation from Delegates - When Considering the Adding of Churches to the ICOC Fellowship**

**OCTOBER 2021**

## **NEED TO MEET/OR PROBLEM TO SOLVE**

When churches want to be added to our fellowship, we need to provide a pathway and an accurate description of our culture.

## **AFFIRMATION**

Leadership teams from both churches gather to share history, ask questions, share views on fundamental issues like conversion, repentance, discipleship, and other commonly held doctrinal stands within the ICOC. Initial connections may be casual meetings, more like a “first Christiandate.”

1. Take time to explore more delicate issues like the style of worship, music in worship services, the women’s role in public worship, and the like.
2. There should be opportunities for each leadership team to visit the other’s congregation. This would include worship services, leaders’ meetings, social gatherings, and different “light” occasions.
3. When a ministry desiring addition into the ICOC agrees with our view on biblical doctrine and our way of doing ministry, inviting the prospective ICOC church leaders to regional leaders’ meetings and multiregional or ICOC gatherings is a helpful next step. The goal here is to gain the commendation of the other regional leaders.

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4. It is recommended that we not “be hasty” in adding to our fellowship. A 12-month “engagement” period could facilitate relational building through connection, cooperation, and contribution opportunities.
  5. If all is going according to plan, the Regional Family Chair-Couple and a consensus of the regional family churches and multi-regional leadership may add the new congregation to their regional family and to the ICOC database. They will be listed on Disciples Today forthwith.

## **OLD PROCESS/or STRUCTURE**

1. Individual Regions have been developing their own process of adding churches.

## **WHY THIS IS BETTER**

1. Clarifies our values
2. Avoids conflicts down the road

Respectfully submitted:

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