

Guidelines for Churches Seeking Membership in the CELC

A. Prerequisites for Membership

1. A church seeking membership in the CELC is expected to be in formal church fellowship with at least one of the churches of the CELC before making application for membership.
2. A church seeking membership in the CELC should have:
 - national clergy,
 - organized congregations with regular worship, with lay leadership, and with members providing support for the work of the church,
 - a constitution or other written document that provides for church organization and governance, and
 - an officially adopted doctrinal position.

B. Procedure for Attaining Membership

1. A church seeking membership in the CELC should:
 - request membership through a letter to the CELC President,
 - obtain a recommendation for membership from at least one CELC church that is in formal church fellowship with it, and
 - submit its constitution and doctrinal statement(s) to the CELC President at least one year before the triennial convention at which the membership request will be considered.
2. The CELC President will inform all CELC churches about the membership request and will make the required membership documents available for all CELC churches to review prior to the triennial convention at which the membership request will be considered.
3. The CELC Commission on Theology will officially evaluate the membership application together with any comments submitted by member churches and will bring a recommendation to the triennial convention.

Adopted 2002; Revised 2011, 2021