

3.0 CHURCH SIZE GUIDELINES – NEED TO REWORK BASED ON DEFIN.

Our diocese bases its distinctions related to ‘congregation’ and ‘church plant’ on Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) and overall congregation development.

The following guidelines, based on ASA, are put forward as benchmarks that may be adjusted by the Bishop on a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate:

	<u>ASA</u>	<u>Ecclesial Authority</u>
Missional Community		
Church Plant	2-24	Church planter to: a. if sponsored by a Church, the Rector of sponsoring Congregation, b. if sponsored by the Deanery the Dean, or c. if sponsored by the Diocese, to the Bishop. In all cases, the Bishop has final authority.
Congregation*	More than 25	Priest-in-Charge/Rector to the Bishop

* *UNDER REVIEW* – According to our canons, in addition to ASA standards, a Congregation must be incorporated, have 501(c) 3 status, handle its own finances, and be insured. At this stage, a congregation may apply for membership in the Diocese of Western Anglicans. (See Admitting New Congregations to the Diocese.)

The measures of congregational health associated with smaller congregations are in the areas of governance (**self-governing**), funding (**self-funding**) and reproduction (**self-propagating**). It is assumed that church plants and congregations will grow to maturity in these three areas. At the same time, our diocese is increasingly focusing on facilitating:

- + Missional focus (external and toward the harvest field)
- + Mobilizing and releasing laity for the harvest
- + Equipping leaders to develop disciple-makers
- + Discipling people to disciple others