

CHURCH ON THE ROCK - NORTH AMERICA

PURPOSE:

God has impressed upon the hearts of both Dr. Larry Lea and Dr. Lawrence Kennedy that the local churches need to be related in some way; that a meaningful relationship, or partnership, should be established among them. We believe that Church On The Rock - North America, "COTR-NA" will provide an excellent opportunity for local churches all across America to establish these relationships. It is our desire to have 1,000 churches actively relating to one another by the year 2000.

OFFICERS:

President	Dr. Larry Lea 1925 Hidden Valley Rockwall, TX 75087
Vice President	Mrs. Melva Lea 1925 Hidden Valley Rockwall, TX 75087
Secretary/Treas.	Dr. Lawrence Kennedy 3726 Gus Thomasson, #1901 Mesquite, TX 75150

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Garland, TX 75043

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First National Bank - Garland
508 W. I-30
Garland, TX 75043
(214) 226-2525
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BY-LAWS:

(See attached)

The following material is a handbook presenting the initial facts about Church On The Rock-North America and the benefits that a local church would enjoy entering into a relationship with COTR-NA.

Dear Fellow Pastor,

The Lord Jesus Christ is building His church. He is its architect, designer, and head. Through His church, Christ is "making known unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places the wisdom of God in all its varied forms exactly according to the plan which He had had from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:10,11). These are the most exciting days of the church, and God wishes it to be an expression of His life upon the earth.

God has impressed upon the hearts of both Dr. Larry Lea and myself that the local Churches need to be related in some way; that a meaningful relationship, or partnership, should be established among them. Jesus said, "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: But they put new wine into new bottles and both are preserved" (Matthew 9:17). Traditional thought and structure will not hold the new wine (present-day truth) that God is pouring out.

I believe this is a day in which God is stressing unity of His body. The Holy Spirit alone can produce unity, but we are to maintain it. Churches need a vital, life-giving relationship with one another, but not a rigid structure which will inhibit the Holy Spirit from saying what He wants to say. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 2:7)

With unity, and not a rigid, inflexible structure as the key concept, we want to present Church On The Rock-North America to you. Unity by its very nature does not deny a local church its own individuality and identity.

We believe that Church On The Rock-North America provides an excellent opportunity for local churches all across America to establish meaningful relationships and fellowship with other churches. The vision, purpose, and benefits of joining Church On The Rock-North America are presented in the pages that follow. The different levels of relationships a church can enjoy with COTR-NA will be explained. It is our desire to have 1,000 churches actively relating to one another by the year 2000.

We hope you will prayerfully and sincerely consider becoming a part of Church On The Rock-North America. If you have any further questions, you may write:

Church On the Rock
Church Planting Department
P.O. Box 880
Rockwall, Texas 75087
or call
(214) 227-0244

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Dr. Lawrence Kennedy

STATEMENT OF VISION

Church on the Rock has been called and ordained, under the leadership of Dr. Larry Lea, to call our nation to prayer and to win this generation to the Lord. COTR has become a catalyst to provide support for a great number of missionaries and God-ordained outreaches. Approximately twenty-two percent (22%) of COTR's tithes and offerings go toward these ministries of this local church, setting a pattern example.

It is our desire to fellowship with other churches and organizations of like vision, who are committed to reaching this generation for Christ. We believe the fields are indeed white unto the harvest, and as the bride of Christ becomes solidified in this vision, we will see the greatest ingathering of the harvest into the storehouse ever known to mankind. We believe this initial statement is the first step in establishing a fellowship of churches and organizations called into this unity of vision, and we will endeavor to enhance our relationship by serving one another at every opportunity.

Our vision is for Church on the Rock-North America to have 1000 churches by the year 2000.

FOUR LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIP

Churches may relate to Church on the Rock-North America on one of four different levels of relationships. The relationships are reciprocal in the sense that the more intimate the relationship, the greater are the responsibilities and obligations of both Church on the Rock-North America and the churches in relationship with the organization.

The four levels of relationships are defined as follows.

Level One - Fellowship Churches

As fellowship organizations, each church will have the opportunity to relate to Church on the Rock-North America in a limited way, primarily in COTR's prayer and missionary ministry.

Level Two - Associate Churches

As Associate churches, each church will receive help and counsel concerning their overall vision, and receive full ministry from COTR-NA. These churches are not conceived by COTR-NA, but this is a deeper level of relationship than the Fellowship level.

Level Three - Planted Churches

This is the most intimate level of relationship, as these churches are conceived by and developed into full maturity by COTR-NA.

Level Four - Charter Churches

This level parallels the level of Planted Churches, with the provision that properties are held in trust by COTR-NA.

Level One - Fellowship Churches

The Fellowship Church Level is for churches and pastors who have a desire to fellowship with COTR-NA on a minimum basis.

Criteria For Fellowship Churches:

- (1) All material (Finding The Rock, Care, Leadership and Prayer etc.) will be made available to these churches to use if needed and requested. Training material will be provided at cost plus 10%, and all other material will be discounted at 20%.
- (2) Availability of COTR-NA and regional pastor when needed.
- (3) Special consideration concerning COTR-NA conferences.
- (4) The church may participate in partnership with COTR Rockwall in world missions. See "VISION FOR THE EXTENSION TITHE" for details.
- (5) COTR-NA is a self-supporting entity, with all churches participating. An annual fee of \$500.00 is required for churches with five hundred members or less. A fee of \$1,000.00, annually is required for churches of over five

hundred members. This helps defray office and personnel costs, as well as ministry to the fellowship church and staff, such as coordinating a visit by a COTR-NA representative.

- (6) The church is not required to change its name.
- (7) The Pastor and Elders will fill out a form including the name of the Fellowship church, the year formed, and brief description of its history and vision.
- (8) The church will be provided weekly tapes of Pastor Lea's messages at cost.
- (9) The Fellowship church will be required to maintain a time, place and a systematic plan for prayer.

Level Two - Associate Churches

The Associate Church (or Adopted church) level of ministry is for pastors and churches who would have COTR-NA take them "under wing" and impart vision and full ministry to them.

Criteria for Associate Churches:

- (1) The Associate Church Pastor must meet with COTR-NA to receive and review preliminary requirements.
- (2) The Pastor of the Associate Church will meet with Dr. L. Kennedy , the Elder of the COTR-NA, the COTR-NA Presbyters, and other COTR-NA leaders.
- (3) After much prayer by Dr. Kennedy and the leadership, the decision will be made as to the date the local church will be received into COTR-NA.
- (4) COTR-NA will provide a start-up packet. All training materials, books, tapes, etc., will be made available at cost plus postage and handling.
- (5) The official name of the Associate Church may be changed to incorporate COTR, and the COTR logo may be used.

- (6) The church may participate in partnership with COTR Rockwall in world missions. See "VISION FOR THE EXTENSION TITHE" for details.
- (7) The Associate Church participates in the North American cooperative fund by contributing 3% of its budget. This fund provides for the planting of new churches and for administrative and ministry expenses of COTR-NA. Quarterly reports are sent to all participating churches.
- (8) COTR-NA will provide Ministers' Conference registration fees at no cost.
- (9) COTR-NA will be available upon request to give information to help the Associate church set up its own bookstore, tape ministry and sound systems, more effective office administration, etc.
- (10) COTR-NA phones will be available for counseling for all Associate Church Pastors and their families.
- (11) All qualified Pastors and Elders of the Associate Church will be ordained and/or licensed by COTR-NA.
- (12) COTR-NA will provide awards, certificates, and local news releases (RE: new buildings, attendance growth, training programs, etc.) at cost.

- (13) Associate Churches will receive a weekly tape of Pastor Lea's messages at no charge.

- (14) A covenant with COTR-NA must be completed and signed by the Pastor and leadership of the Associate Church.

- (15) Any misconduct or straying from the COTR-NA vision will be addressed by the COTR-NA.

- (16) The Associate Church will be required to maintain a time, a place and a systematic plan for prayer.

- (17) The Pastor of the Associate Church can appoint a successor for his local church as long as he (the successor) carries papers with COTR-NA. This practice is encouraged, as it will provide stability for the local church should something unexpected happen to the Senior Pastor.

Level Three - Planted Churches

Planted Churches are those that have been designated by the Lord through COTR-NA to be birthed and planted in certain areas.

A. Criteria for a Pastor being commissioned to a Planted Church

- (1) The Pastor must have completed all required training courses at a COTR (Finding the Rock, Leadership, Care and Prayer.)
- (2) The Pastor must have been involved at least in a Care Group as a leader, assistant leader or outreach leader for a specified period of time.
- (3) The Pastor must have received, agreed with and adopted the vision of COTR-North America and Pastor Lea.
- (4) The Pastor must know the calling on his life is to be a Senior Pastor.
- (5) The Pastor must be willing to submit to the direction of COTR-North America (including Pastor Larry Lea) as given through the COTR-NA.
- (6) Prior to being sent out, the Pastor will meet with the COTR-NA.
- (7) A covenant between the Pastor and COTR-NA must be signed.

(8) The Pastor must understand that any misconduct or straying from the vision of COTR-NA will be reason for immediate discipline and correction by the COTR-NA.

B. COTR-North America will provide the Planted Church with the following:

- (1) All leadership and training materials for the local church will be supplied at cost. All other books, tapes, materials, etc., will be provided at a discount of 20%.
- (2) All Ministers' Conference registration fees at COTR Rockwall will be covered.
- (3) COTR will provide information about publicity, special recognition, presentation of awards, etc., for the local church.
- (4) COTR Rockwall will provide weekly tapes of Pastor Lea's messages.

C. The Local (Planted) Church will follow these criteria:

- (1) The local church will change its name to "Church on the Rock."
- (2) The local Senior Pastor will conduct all day-to-day business, but will counsel with COTR-NA.

- (3) The church may participate in partnership with COTR Rockwall in world missions. For details see "VISION FOR THE EXTENSION TITHE".
- (4) The Planted church participates in the North American cooperative fund by contributing 5% of its budget. This fund provides for the planting of new churches and for administrative and ministry expenses of COTR-NA. Quarterly reports are sent to all participating churches.
- (5) The Planted Church's government and internal structure shall be subject to the oversight of COTR-NA.
- (6) The local church will maintain a time, place and a systematic plan for prayer.

Level Four - Charter Churches

The Charter Church was instituted out of a need felt by pastors who wished to insure the longevity and success of the vision of their local church. It is available on an optional basis to those who are at the Associate or Planted Church level.

A. Criteria for the Pastor of a Charter Church.

- (1) The Pastor must implement all required COTR training courses (Finding the Rock, Leadership, Care and Prayer.)
- (2) The Pastor must have received, agreed with and adopted the vision of COTR-NA and Pastor Lea.
- (3) The Pastor must know the calling on his life is to be a Senior Pastor.
- (4) The Pastor must be willing to submit to the direction of COTR-NA (including Pastor Larry Lea) as given through the COTR-NA.
- (5) Prior to being received as a Charter Church, the Pastor will meet with COTR-NA.
- (6) A covenant between the Pastor and COTR-NA must be signed.

- (7) The Pastor must understand that any misconduct or straying from the vision of COTR-NA will be reason for immediate discipline and correction by the COTR-NA.

B. COTR-North America will provide the Charter Church with the following:

- (1) All leadership and training materials for the local church will be supplied at cost. All other books, tapes, materials, etc., will be provided at a discount of 20%.
- (2) All Minister's Conference registration fees at COTR Rockwall will be covered.
- (3) COTR will provide information about publicity, special recognition, presentation of awards, etc., for the local church.
- (4) COTR Rockwall will provide weekly tapes of Pastor Lea's messages.

C. The Local (Charter) Church will follow these criteria:

- (1) The Local Church will change its name to "Church on the Rock".
- (2) The Local Senior Pastor will conduct all day-to-day business, but will counsel with COTR-NA.

- (3) The church may participate in partnership with COTR Rockwall in world missions. For details see "VISION FOR THE EXTENSION TITHE".
- (4) The Charter Church participates in the North American cooperative fund by contributing 5% of its budget. This fund provides for the planting of new churches and for administrative and ministry expenses of COTR-NA. Quarterly reports are sent to all participating churches.
- (5) The Charter Church's government and internal structure shall be subject to the oversight of COTR-NA.
- (6) COTR-NA will serve as trustee of all properties. All property transactions must be approved by COTR-NA.
- (7) COTR-NA must approve any successor to the senior pastorate.
- (8) The Charter Church will maintain a time, place and a systematic plan for prayer.

Benefits

To become an Affiliate Church with COTR-NA, a Associate Church must support with 3% - 5% of its annual general income to the COTR-NA. Obviously, COTR-NA realizes that a church must recognize substantial benefits from membership with COTR-NA to justify the support. We do believe that the following are some of the important benefits that an Associate Church will enjoy.

- A. An Associate Church with COTR-NA will give the church an intimate relationship with one of the fastest growing, most well-known churches in America.
- B. The church can receive free counsel and advice from COTR-NA as desired.
- C. COTR-NA will supply the Associate Church with a start-up packet of training materials free of charge. All training materials are provided at cost.
- D. COTR-NA will help the Associate Church set up any phase of its ministry, including tape ministry, sound systems, bookstores, care ministry, etc.
- E. COTR-NA will provide awards, certificates, and local news releases (RE: new buildings, body growth, training programs, etc.) at cost.
- F. Associate Churches will receive a weekly tape of Pastor Lea's messages.
- G. The Senior Pastor will be able to attend the yearly National Conference free of charge (except for some

meals and transportation expense.) Many practical areas will be presented at these conferences, such as CPA's answering questions, computer clinics, legal advice, seminars, political seminars, and symposiums (praise and worship, prayer, missions, etc.).

- H. Become affiliated with the Network of Christian Ministries (both Drs. Lea and Kennedy serve on the Board of Governors of NCM).
- I. Receive financial aid in case of emergency, as approved by the Presbytry Board of COTR-NA.
- J. Access to well-known guest speakers and music ministries.
- K. Receive the quarterly newspaper, the contents of which are described elsewhere in this booklet.
- L. To be able to be a part of one of the most dynamic and world-changing mission programs and projects. This includes orphanages, Bible colleges, and many outreach teams.
- M. We believe in the regional church ministry. Therefore, to see a large church in an area instead of many small ones is at the heart of our vision.

VISIONS FOR THE EXTENSION TITHE

I. WORLD MISSIONS

INTRODUCTION

Believing it is scriptural and healthy for a church to give beyond its own needs. Church on the Rock-North America proposes the Church Extension Tithe. Church on the Rock, Rockwall has set a precedent for this by giving approximately 22% of its funds to missions and evangelism outreaches, outside the need of its own body. At several critical times in the life of the church, bold giving has resulted in God abundantly meeting the need. As leaders, teaching our own people to give out of their need and in faith, we need to exemplify this principle as a church.

The advantage to the local church will be the blessings of God, as we reach out to meet the needs of our country and the world. We will be protected from becoming ingrown and full of doubt and fear.

The primary calling of the local church is to reach its city and locale. But CORPORATELY, we can make a difference on a much larger scale. This is why God has called Church on the Rock-North America into being.

We believe the hour is upon us to call our nation and the body of Christ to prayer, to plant and establish strong local churches, and to strategically plant the kingdom of God in other nations. The Church Extension Tithe helps provide the necessary funding for this.

IMPLEMENTATION

We maintain that a minimum of 10% of the church's revenues should be set aside for outreach beyond their local body. Churches initiating this could give 5% the first year, and escalate to 10% or beyond thereafter. Giving and disbursement of funds could be carried out through a variety of options:

One, a church currently without an effective missions program of its own could funnel its missions giving through COTR, Rockwall. COTR Rockwall is currently in over 20 countries and has an aggressive and effective missions vision, recognized by many agencies as representing the cutting edge of what the Holy Spirit is doing today in missions. A seasoned missions staff gives itself full time to fulfilling the mandate of God on the church. The funds contributed by the affiliate church would be 'designated' to certain missionaries, who would communicate regularly with it, and visit and share when off the field.

Secondly, COTR, Rockwall could make itself available to a church already having or desiring to have its own missions program. Resources such as counsel to the missions director or board, missions seminars or annual conferences, counsel on finance or credibility of a prospective missions ministry, and training of missions candidates would be available to the affiliate church. Costly mistakes could be avoided by joint counsel. Large projects could be funded by joint cooperation.

Of course, a combination of the above could be effected, perhaps with the local church moving toward the goal of having its own effective missions program. The goal of COTR, Rockwall is simply that the great commission be fulfilled in our generation. We believe this will be accomplished by local churches having a bold vision and the strategy of what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church today. Consultation with pastoral staff at COTR can help determine the most effective strategy for each church.

In addition, members and staff of each affiliate church can participate in joint short term team mission trips. There is perhaps no better way to implant the vision to a church body than allowing some of its members to see and minister on a foreign field.

II. NATIONAL OFFICE, CAMPGROUNDS, PUBLICATION, AND MISC.

The COTR-NA cooperative fund will be utilized as follows.

A. National Office - This office is concerned with home missions and the start-up of new works. Apostolic teams of Field Representatives (appointed by the Presbytry Board and approved by Dr. Lea) will go out to help start and establish new churches. A portion will be used to obtain rooms for the Senior Pastors at the National Conference.

B. Prayer Retreat Campground - Will be used to develop and maintain conference campgrounds.

C. Publications - Will be designated to publish a quarterly newspaper.

**articles from Associate Churches

**list of Associate Church

**articles from Dr. Lea and other leaders and
pastors

**recognition of new Associate Churches

**recognition of Pastors who have been ordained by
COTR

**building project news from Associate Churches

**schedule of upcoming conferences and
conventions

**reviews of new books to be released

**order forms for books

**missions news

D. Miscellaneous - Miscellaneous expenses.

III. EDUCATION

The COTR-NA Fund will be utilized as follows.

A. Oral Roberts Seminary - Will go to support the School of Theology at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma under Dr. L. Lea's care, in the local pastor's name.

B. National Call to Prayer - Will support National Call To Prayer.

IV. LEGAL, EMERGENCY FUND, AND MEMBERSHIP

The final 10% (approximately) of monies received into the COTR-NA Fund will be used to provide legal consultation in some matters; memberships for Senior Pastors in groups such as the Charismatic Bible Fellowship and Network of Christian Ministries and also provide an Emergency Fund which will be used to help contributing churches that have an emergency.

The Presbytry Board will determine what constitutes a bona-fide emergency and will authorize the dispersal of monies from the Emergency Fund.

CONCLUSION

To summarize, a cooperative fund will enable all of us to accomplish more than any of us could individually. We all know that God's blessing will be upon individuals and churches as they respond to the directives of the Lord.

Church on the Rock-North America

Financial Projections

As previously stated, the primary vision of Church on the Rock North America is to have 1000 Associate-Level Churches by the year 2000. To become an Associate Church, a church must contribute to the Church Extension Church on the Rock-North America and will make it possible to achieve its goals in the four basic areas and ministry described earlier in this booklet. In order to demonstrate the financial resources that can be realized by a fellowship of churches, certain assumptions can be made about the number of churches and the average level of income. The two variable assumptions are the number of associate churches and the average annual income of those churches. Of course, some churches will have a smaller income than average, while others will have a larger income; but an average income figure can be very useful to quickly demonstrate some meaningful financial projections.

By using this type of projections, it is possible to use "what if" thinking to plan for the future and determine what amounts of money would be available for different aspects of ministry, given a projected number of Associate churches and an average annual general income.

Basic Var: # of Affiliates	Average Assumptions		Total Income to Church Extension Fund	Amount to World Missions	Amount to National Office, Campgrounds, Publications, Misc.	Amount to Education, Larry Lea Min., NCTP	Amount to Emergency Fund, Legal, Memberships, Etc.
	Average Annual General Income	Average Tithe to Church Extension Fund					
100	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000
250	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000
500	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$ 500,000
750	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$ 7,500,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$ 750,000
1000	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$10,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000
100	\$125,000	\$12,500	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 125,000
250	\$125,000	\$12,500	\$ 3,125,000	\$ 937,500	\$ 937,500	\$ 937,500	\$ 312,500
500	\$125,000	\$12,500	\$ 6,250,000	\$1,875,000	\$1,875,000	\$1,875,000	\$ 625,000
750	\$125,000	\$12,500	\$ 9,375,000	\$2,812,500	\$2,812,500	\$2,812,500	\$ 937,500
1000	\$125,000	\$12,500	\$12,500,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000	\$1,250,000

(25)

Field Representatives

The Field Representatives (also called District Supervisors), which includes regional Pastors and mobile traveling ministries, are very important to the growth, health, and success of Church on the Rock-North America. These Field Representatives are appointed by the Presbytry Board, subject to the approval of Dr. Lea. They will serve a term of 2-4 years and may be reappointed by the Presbytry Board, subject to recommendations of associate pastors of COTR-NA.

I. Objectives

- A. To help establish a fellowship of churches throughout North America, which will strengthen and support each other; at the same time achieving the common goal of winning our nation to Christ.
- B. To establish a national interlocking prayer ministry while making available the apostolic covering of COTR-NA and Dr. Lea.
- C. To disseminate counsel in any area of expertise that COTR-NA may have been blessed with, but only in direct proportion to the request of the local church pastor.
- D. To establish strong local churches with New Testament government that will help stabilize pastors and solidify congregations to the end so HIS kingdom can be established. Each Field

Representative shall devote himself to the upbuilding of the churches of Church on the Rock International, adhering to the bylaws and procedures of COTR-NA.

II. Responsibilities

- A. To prospective new member churches.
 - 1. Visit churches which indicate an interest in becoming a part of COTR-NA.
 - 2. Show the 30-minute video about Church on the Rock-North America to the pastor and/or leadership.

This video will include the following:

- Dr. Lea preaching
 - New office complex
 - New church complex
 - Oral Roberts University, especially the seminary
 - Care groups
 - Early morning prayer
 - Missionaries
 - Training classes (Finding the Rock, Leadership)
 - Minister's Conference
 - Interviews with pastors of several affiliate churches
- 3. Make an assessment of the state or condition of the church and pastor. Note potential problems (i.e., weak pastor/leadership, board controlling the pastor, financial

problems, wrong motives for wanting to join COTR-NA, etc.)

4. Make written and/or oral reports to the Presbytry Board and make a recommendation to accept or deny the church as a new member, based on his assessment of the individual.
 5. Be able to consummate the relationship with a promising church without the "hard sell" approach.
 6. Share the purpose and vision of COTR-NA. Explain to the church the benefits of joining COTR-NA.
 7. Collect financial statements, bylaws, and articles of Incorporation from prospective churches to present to the Presbytry Board.
- B. To churches already in COTR-NA
1. Offer counsel and advice as requested by the local senior pastor.
 2. Visit each member church periodically and determine whether the church meets the criteria for relationship at its chosen level (i.e., Fellowship or Associate Church).
 3. Encourage, inspire, and motivate the pastors and leadership of the member church.

III. Other considerations

- A. Each Field Representative will receive a base salary and an incentive bonus.
- B. Pay increases will be dependent on the growth of the organization.
- C. Each Field Representative will be directly accountable to the Presbytry Board of the COTR-NA Planting Department.

MINISTERIAL CERTIFICATES

All Pastors and Elders of Associate and Birthed Churches will be ordained by COTR-NA. The Presbytry Board will issue to each ordained and/or licensed minister, immediately upon his ordination or licensing, a certificate which will verify that the minister has been ordained or licensed according to the requirements of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of COTR-NA.

Each ordained and/or licensed minister will be issued a credential card upon the payment of an annual fee, which will be fixed by the Presbytry Board and reviewed annually.

A minister may have his credentials revoked by the Presbytry Board if he is found guilty of any of the following.

- (1) Heresy.
- (2) Conduct which violates Biblical principles.
- (3) Willful failure or refusal to comply with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of COTR-NA.
- (4) Intentional neglect of ministerial duties.
- (5) Intentional teaching and/or endorsing doctrine other than that held by COTR-NA.
- (6) Conspiring to divide either COTR-NA or any local church belonging to COTR-NA.

- (7) Uniting with another organization having purposes similar to COTR-NA.
- (8) Accepting ordination or license from any other such organization.
- (9) Willful failure to keep records, or the destroying of church records.

Any minister whose credentials have been revoked but desires for his credentials to be reinstated will make application therefore to the Presbytry Board, and upon sufficient proof of repentance and restitution may have his credentials restored, solely at the discretion of the Board.

MINISTERS' CODE OF ETHICS

As an ordained or licensed minister or Christian worker, I fully subscribe to and support the vision of Church on the Rock-North America, as set forth by Dr. Larry Lea. I furthermore declare myself to be in harmony with and bind myself to the contents, purposes and provisions of the Bylaws and the Statement of Beliefs of COTR-NA.

I will always dedicate myself to the faithful performance of the ministry to which I have been called and will at all times endeavor to maintain harmony, Christian unity, and accord.

Should I desire to publish books, tracts, or literature, etc., bearing the Church on the Rock-North America name, I understand that I will first obtain the approval of the Presbytry Council of COTR-NA.

When ministering in the pulpit, I will strive to look my best by being well groomed and well dressed.

I also pledge to give the fullest consideration to my fellow ministers associated with COTR-NA, and will seek the best interest of the organization and the cause of Christ under and in all circumstances.

MERGER OF TWO OR MORE EXISTING CHURCHES

It is possible, in a given city or locality, that two churches will determine expedience to merge. This would be most likely when such a merger would be of greater benefit than the continued existence of two (or more) individual churches. The most important consideration would be that the pastors, church members, and the community would be better off as a result of such a merger.

The request for merger may come from the churches desiring such. In addition, the Presbytry Council may be aware of certain situations when a merger would be beneficial.

When considering a merger, the Presbytry Council would have to consider and plan to accomplish the following objectives:

Objective #1: The establishment of an ongoing, autonomous, growing, exciting local church. To win a specific city or area to Christ.

Objective #2: To choose, approve, and otherwise solidify and establish leadership in the "new" church resulting from the merger. It is possible that the leaders of the two (or more) merging churches will not readily agree on how the leadership will be established.

It will be necessary for the Presbytry Council to set leadership in place in such situations. In any case, the Presbytry Council must always approve of the leaders and leadership structure.

Objective #3: To make sure the members of the new church (from the merger) understand the merger. It is especially vital that they understand the leadership structure, the mission and direction of the church.

Objective #4: To insure complete liquidity of all real properties for Church on the Rock-North America purposes.

The following procedures would be followed when considering merger proposals:

- I. The entire Presbytry Council should hear and consider all proposals for merger.
 - A. All members and ex officio members of the Presbytry Council would be individually notified in writing of all proposals, along with an advanced date set for inspection of properties and meeting with all concerned parties.
 - B. These notices would be dispersed through the CM&D office in order to facilitate communication and formal notification to all concerned parties.

- II. Meeting place should be predetermined, preferably in CM&D Home Office or a neutral location rather than property under consideration.
- III. All parties will have complete understanding of responsibilities now and in the future concerning all real properties.
- IV. The Presbytry Council will clearly inform all parties of the Governmental Structure of the local church and their relationship to COTR-NA.
- V. The local church pastor in charge will submit in writing a monthly report to CM&D concerning the general disposition (any problems, financial, etc.) of the church. After 6 months, the report would be submitted bimonthly for the completion of the first year and annually from that point on. All communication will be reproduced and forwarded to all Presbytry Council members.
- VI. The local church will submit a complete financial statement to the Presbytry Council at the end of the first 6 month period and then subsequently on an annual basis, or by the 15th of January of each year, whichever come first.

VII. Each local church is autonomous in its own right, owns and cares for its own properties and all real property is in the own church name.

PRESBYTRY PROPOSAL

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL CHURCHES

*In order to successfully unify and care for 1000 churches by the year 2000, I propose the recognition and development of Regional Churches. This has already taken place naturally in some of our stronger works.

Not only does it appear to be more a natural life flow as the Holy Spirit births more and more churches, but it will be a necessary method in the key to successful growth and maintenance in a local church, so delegation will be a key in the growth of a national multi-church movement. In light of this, I suggest the following prerequisites and guide line for our Regional Churches...

- I. The Regional Church must be in a key location making it reasonably accessible to the churches which relate to it.
 - A. This is because one of its major functions would be to touch on a regular basis those relating to it.
 - B. As churches are birthed all over the nation, many of them will have a great need to be near a "touch church" that could offer strength and support.

II. The Regional Church would be established and successful in its own right.

A. It must be proven to be an example and pattern which relating churches would confidently follow and respect.

III. The Regional Church would serve as a distributor of Finding the Rock, Leadership, Care and other materials to its relating churches.

A. As Church on the Rock-North America grows into hundreds of churches, it will be necessary for the Rockwall distribution department to delegate some of its burden. This would be practical and natural solution.

B. This doesn't have to be an added financial burden to the Regional Church. A person could be placed over the distribution department and paid a percentage of what is sold without drawing a salary from the general fund.

IV. The Regional Pastor would serve as a consultant to the Presbytry Council when a new church is being considered anywhere within his sphere of influence.

Presbytry Proposal

- A. This would be a major deterrent to the very foreseeable problem of overkill--too many churches in too small an area. We want no two COTR-NA pastors at any time having to compete with one another.
 - B. The Regional Pastor will often know his area's needs far better than anyone else.
- V. The Regional Church would meet every three to six months with its relating churches for prayer and fellowship.
- A. Great strength is derived from the knowledge that a united effort is under way to conquer and win a given area for Christ.
- VI. The Regional Pastor would be the "touch man" for the Presbytry Council to maintain worthwhile contact with them. A Regional Pastor could submit a report, if, or when needed, on the condition of those he oversees. This would greatly enhance the Presbytry Council's ability to keep its finger on the pulse of our churches.

*Concluding remarks...

It goes without saying that a Regional Pastor would be chosen with much discretion and earnest prayer. He must be fully orientated to COTR-NA vision and doctrine, as well as the spiritual authority teaching of the house.

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, equally in all parts and in the whole and is totally inerrant in the original manuscripts. We further believe it is the supreme revelation from God and of God, superior to conscience and reason, though not contrary to them; and it is therefore our infallible rule in all matters. We believe that all Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ and hence that no portion is properly read nor understood until it leads to Him. (John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12)

2. The Godhead

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having the same nature, attributes, and perfections and are worthy of the same homage and obedience. (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:20; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6)

3. The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe in the pre-existence, incarnation and virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ who came into the world to reveal the Father, and was the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person; that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Creator of all things, for by Him the worlds were made. We believe that

in Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and that He was very God and very man, the I AM, the Jehovah of the Old Testament. We further believe in the sinless life of our Lord Jesus Christ, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His bodily ascension into heaven, and in earth, and under the earth. (John 1:1-2, 14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Acts 7:37-38; Philippians 2:9-10; Hebrews 7:25)

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, though omnipresent from all eternity, after the glorification of Jesus Christ was sent on the day of Pentecost, dwells in every believer, unites all to Christ in one body, and is the source of all power and acceptable service. We believe that ministries are committed to the Holy Spirit including the restraining of evil in the world; the convicting of the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgement; the regeneration of all believers; the sealing of all believers unto the day of redemption; and the continuous filling for power and service of these among the saved who are yielded to Him and to His will. We believe that the fruit of the Spirit is the manifestation of the character of Christ in the believer's life. We further believe that all of the gifts of the Spirit should be and must be operative in the church for the church to manifest her full glory under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (John 3:6, 14:16-17; Romans 8:9, 12:10-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:8-11; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:22, 4:11-13)

5. Angels, Unfallen and Fallen

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless spiritual beings known as angels; the one, "Lucifer, Son of the Morning," the highest in rank, sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan; that a great company of the angels followed him in his moral fall and have now become demons and are active as his agents. (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

We believe that Satan is the originator of sin, and that, under the permission of God, he, through subtlety, led our first parents into transgression, thereby accomplishing their moral fall and subjecting them and their posterity to his own power and that he is the enemy of God and His people. However, we also believe that Satan was defeated by Jesus Christ at Calvary and that he has delegated this authority over Satan to His body, the church. At the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, and after the thousand years he will be loosed for a little season and then cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where he shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:12-14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 11:13-15; Ephesians 6:10-12, 2 Thessalonians 2:4; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:1-3, 10)

We further believe that a great company of angels kept their holy estate and are before the Throne of God, from whence

they are sent forth as ministering spirits to minister to those who are the heirs of salvation. (Luke 15:10; Ephesians 1:21; Hebrews 1:14)

6. The Creation of the World and Man

We believe that God sovereignly created the world out of nothing. We further believe that man was created in the image of God and by a direct and immediate act of God. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27, 2:4)

7. Man's Fallen Condition

We believe that man by willful transgression fell from a state of righteousness and holiness in which he was first created into total spiritual depravity; a state of death in trespasses and sins in which he is held as a slave of sin and an enemy of God, being unable to attain divine righteousness by his own efforts, but must be redeemed and delivered by the power of the Gospel. (Romans 3:23-25, 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

8. Salvation Only Through Christ

We believe that repentance and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ produces the work of justification in the believer through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Further, we believe that, owing to universal spiritual death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit. We also believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who dies as our substitute. (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9)

9. The Walk of the Believer

We believe that a continuous walk in grace should be the emphasis of heart righteousness and purity, believing in the keeping power of God, walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh, in conduct that demonstrates the character of Jesus Christ, not being conformed to the world, but being transformed by the renewing of the mind. We further believe that each believer must lay a foundation of Biblical truth and experience upon which he builds his life.

Through the Lordship of Jesus Christ, these foundation stones are established in the new birth and include repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement. (Romans 4:1-5, 8:25, 12:1; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Galatians 5:16-25; Hebrews 6:1-2; Jude 24)

10. The Doctrine of Baptisms

We believe that the New Testament teaches at least three baptisms. First, there is the baptism whereby the repentant sinner, upon trusting Jesus Christ as his/her Savior, is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:10)

Second, there is a water baptism by immersion for believers only. This we believe to be an ordinance of the church, whereby the believer experiences the reality of co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 29:19-20; Romans 6:3-6)

Third, there is the filling or baptism in the Holy Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ, which may occur at or subsequent to conversion. We believe that speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance is the normative evidence of this baptism. Further, we believe that by the believer's continued submission to the Holy Spirit, his very weakness is transformed into strength to witness for Jesus Christ in power and to live according to the will of God. (Acts 1:5, 8, 2:4, 38, 10:46, 11:28, 19:6)

11. Divine Healing

We believe in divine healing for the whole man through the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16; Acts 4:30, 19:11, 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14; 1 Peter 2:24-25)

12. The Church

We believe that all who are united by the new birth to Jesus Christ are members of the universal Church, the body of Christ. We also believe that the local congregation of Christian believers is divinely instituted and is the chosen instrument of God for the furtherance of God's work upon the earth. While appreciating the work of parachurch groups, we believe that the local church is God's chosen vehicle for world evangelization and the nurture of Christians. We further believe in the spiritual unity of all believers and in working together with others who believe in salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the causes of evangelism, missions and

benevolences. (Matthew 16:16-18; John 17:21; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:20-23, 4:3-10; Colossians 3:14-15)

13. The Ordinances

We believe that water baptism is for believers only and should be administered by the mode of immersion and in the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We further believe that water baptism is the means whereby we receive the New Covenant sign of circumcision of heart. We also believe that we are identified with Jesus Christ and participate in His death, burial, and resurrection through water baptism. (Matthew 28:10-20; Acts 8:16; Romans 6:4)

We believe and practice the ordinance of foot washing for all believers as instructed by the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 13:14-15)

14. Worship

We believe that the whole purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Therefore, we believe in the act of worshipping God with one's total being as set forth in the Holy Scriptures. (Psalm 150; Mark 12:29-31; Ephesians 5:18-21)

15. Ministers to the Church

We believe in the divinely called, commissioned and equipped five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ after His ascension. We further believe that all Christians are called to be ambassadors for Christ and that all believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation. (Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

16. Laying on of Hands

We believe in the doctrine of laying on of hands for:

- A. The confirming of believers to commitment and ministry in the local church
- B. The confirming of one's call by God to special ministry in the local church (Acts 13:1,3)
- C. The imparting of spiritual gifts (1 Timothy 4:q4; 2 Timothy 1:6)
- D. The experiencing of the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17-18)
- E. The ministering of healing of the sick through the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16)
- F. The blessing and dedicating of children to the Lord (Mark 10:16)

We further believe that, in obedience to the Holy Scripture, we should lay hands on no man suddenly, but that the laying on of hands confirms a ministry which is already observable and has been proven. (1 Timothy 5:22)

17. Evangelism and Missions

We believe that it is the explicit message of our Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has redeemed, that they are sent forth by Him into the world to be witnesses of His saving grace and that their primary purpose in life should be to glorify God by obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ's command to preach the Gospel to every creature. (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Peter 1:17; 2:11)

18. The Restoration of All Things

We believe that all that was lost by the Fall is now being restored by Jesus Christ in and through His church and that there will be a total and ultimate restoration of all things by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Daniel 7:14; Acts 3:21; Revelation 21:1-5)

19. The Eternal State

We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body, when Jesus Christ comes for His own, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be with Him forever in glory; but the spirits and souls of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in misery until the final judgement of the Great White Throne, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19-26, 23:42; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15)