

Preface to the Second Edition

The Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension (CHMCE) of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) is grateful to our Lord for the privilege of having served His church through its publication in 2002 of the manual entitled *Planting an Orthodox Presbyterian Church*. With both joy and humility, we thank our Lord that this publication has been instrumental in helping churches and mission works of the OPC, as well as those outside the OPC, to be faithful to our Lord in the planting of new churches.

The genesis of this manual was a plea from the regional home missionaries and the chairmen of presbytery home missions committees who attended the 1999 Regional Church Extension Conference, sponsored by the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension.

The General Secretary and the newly called Associate General Secretary of the Committee began collecting information that they believed could be useful in the production of this manual. The Committee began to think that a manual on Orthodox Presbyterian church-planting endeavors could be produced under its oversight. At its December 2000 meeting, the Committee granted the General Secretary, the Rev. Ross W. Graham, a sabbatical to produce such a document.

Mr. Graham presented the first draft to the September 2001 meeting of the Committee, where it underwent an initial critique and revision. Several individuals within the OPC were also contacted for their input. Additionally, the manual underwent a rigorous review and subsequent

revision at the November 2001 Regional Church Extension Conference by OPC presbytery leaders in church planting. At its December 2001 meeting, the Committee conducted a final review and approved the manual for publication. The first edition went to press and was made available to the churches early in 2002. Since then, it has been a ready tool for use by our presbyteries and congregations in planting churches in the OPC.

At its meeting in December 2007, the Committee decided to revise and update *Planting an Orthodox Presbyterian Church* and to publish this second edition. It was also determined to include materials from another CHMCE publication, *Manual for Presbytery/CHMCE Partnership*, and to take portions of that publication that were not printed as part of the first edition and to place them as appendices in this second edition.

The Committee is grateful to God for all who have put so much of their time into the theological and stylistic editing necessary to produce this document. Most of all, we are grateful to our Lord for giving us servants like Ross Graham and his wife, Nikki, who labored countless hours in various aspects of the production of this document. We thank God for Mr. Graham, whose godly passion to serve the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by planting and nurturing churches faithful to Christ is an edifying testimony to us all. Although this manual is written by Mr. Graham, it should be apparent that it is one in which a cross section of the OPC has had significant input; therefore, we thank the many individuals involved with the ministry of OPC home missions who have had a hand in the inception, production, and review of both the first and second editions.

With the publication of this second edition of *Planting an Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, we reemphasize our belief that this document is Biblically principled, practical (that is, consistent with Scripture itself),

theologically faithful, and sensitive to the various points on which we disagree. And we reiterate our prayer that the Lord will richly bless the use of this publication by our sessions, presbyteries, presbytery home missions committees, and church planters as they faithfully and prayerfully minister the gospel in planting new Orthodox Presbyterian churches and making more and spiritually stronger disciples of Christ, to the ever-increasing glory of God in the twenty-first century.

The Committee on Home Missions
and Church Extension
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