Minutes

Justice Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY Feb 6, 2014

Feb 6, 2014 Call to Order The meeting of the Justice Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board was called to order by the Chair, Noelle Royer at 8:40 A.M. on Thursday, February 6, 2014, at The Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY. Noelle led in the opening worship and prayer.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Justice Committee The Justice Committee **VOTED** to elect James Ephraim, Jr., as Chair and Susan Osoinach as Vice-Chair of the Justice Committee for the year 2014 to 2015.

Attendance

Those present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Melissa DeRosia Mary Jorgenson
James R. Ephraim, Jr. Kears Pollock
David E. Ezekiel Susan Osoinach
James E. Fouther, Jr. Noelle Royer

Roger Gench

Excused

Janet Martin

Corresponding Members

Linda Valentine – Mission Agency Staff, Executive Director's Office Raafat Zaki – Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy

Others

Maria Arroyo – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry Bill Somplatsky-Jarman – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and

Justice Ministry

Champaka Srinivasan – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry Tonia Trice – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Hunter Farrell – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry

Sara Lisherness – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice

Ministry

Greg Allen-Pickett – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry Ginna Bairby – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Terri Bate – Mission Agency Staff, Funds Development Ministry Amgad Beblawi – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry Shannon Beck – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry

Bob Brashear – Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association Toni Carver-Smith – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice

Ministry

Ellen Pearre Cason – Audit Committee, Tax Justice Task Force

Kay Clements – Parliamentarian

Bethany Daily - Presbyterian News Service

Roger Dermody, - Mission Agency Staff, Office of the Deputy Executive

Director for Mission

Frank Dimmock – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry

Elizabeth Terry Dunning – Mission Responsibility Through Investment

Ruth Farrell – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Rob Fohr – Mission Agency Staff, Mission Ministries

Kathy Francis – Mission Agency Staff, Mission Communications

Brian Fricks – Mission Agency Staff, Evangelism and Church Growth

Ruth Gardner – Mission Agency Staff, Human Resources

Chris Iosso – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Joseph Johnson – Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People Laurie Kraus – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Carmen Fowler LaBerge – Presbyterian Lay Committee, The Layman

Sam Locke – Mission Agency Staff, Funds Development

Donald Mead – Israel Palestine Mission Network

Rosemary C. Mitchell – Mission Engagement Advisor, Office of Public Witness/ United Nations

Kristena Morse – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

J. Herbert Nelson, II – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Susan Ochs – Mission Agency Staff, Human Resources

Sara Otoum – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Lisa Robbins – Mission Agency Staff, Human Resources

Leslie Scanlon – Presbyterian Outlook

Matt Schramm - Presbyterian Mission Agency Board

Gail Strange – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Rick Ufford-Chase – Presbyterian Peace Fellowship/ Stony Point Conference Center

Kitty Ufford-Chase – Stony Point Conference Center

Mienda Uriarte – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry

Cynthia White – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry

Bryce Wiebe – Mission Agency Staff, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

Richard Williams – Mission Agency Staff, World Mission Ministry

Committee Actions: Approval of Agenda Item (B.100)

Noelle Royer reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the Justice Committee **VOTED** to adopt with amendments.

September 2013
Minutes of the Justice
Committee Item
(B.101)

The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the September 2013 Justice Committee minutes and forward to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board for information.

Compassion, Peace and Justice Response to Referrals (B.102) The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry portion of the Presbyterian Mission Agency report to the 221st General Assembly (2014).

Ecumenical Poverty Initiative – Addition

The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

to the Approved **Affiliates List (B.103)** That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve membership in and affiliation with the Ecumenical Poverty Initiative, the successor organization to the former National Council of Churches (NCC) Poverty Initiative.

Western Sahara: Occupied, Non-Self-Governing Territory, and Test Case for **International Law** (B.109)

The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency recommends to the 221st General Assembly (2014) in response to a referral by the 220th General Assembly (2012) of legal and other factors affecting the status and future of the territory of Western Sahara:

- 1. Urge the U. S. Department of State and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to continue to call upon the community of nations to support self-determination for the people of the region known as Western Sahara in accord with prior UN resolutions and determinations of international courts, including provision for a supervised referendum in which the human rights of all Sahrawi and others residents are protected and a fair, internationally recognized settlement is achieved, and the proposal of the United States for human rights observers in this effectively occupied, non-self-governing territory.
- Direct the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, the 2. Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC, and other appropriate offices of the Presbyterian Mission Agency to work with ecumenical and interfaith partners and other non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in support of these efforts on behalf of Western Sahara, and to give attention as feasible to justice issues in other non-self-governing trust territories, territorial possessions, and occupied territories.
- 3. Direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to monitor the activities of international corporations in Western Sahara in which the Foundation or Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may be an investor, including the Potash Corporation (currently in church portfolios), initiating correspondence on the impacts of that firm's mineral extraction, and recommending appropriate further corporate social responsibility measures consistent with the concerns noted above.
- Direct the World Mission Africa and Middle East/Europe/Central Asia liaison offices, appropriate mission networks, and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, to monitor matters of human rights and religious liberty in Western Sahara and other countries across the Northern Africa region where ethnic and religious tensions and undemocratic governance may threaten international peace and security, and make recommendations on public policy and economic witness as appropriate.

World Mission Ministry Response to Referrals (B.111)

The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the World Mission Ministry portion of the Board report to the 221st GA (2014).

Southern Presbyterian The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

Mission in Japan Board Matter Appointment (B.113)

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board ("PMAB") approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Director, World Mission be named designated representative and respond to the needs of the Southern Presbyterian Mission in Japan ("Japan Mission"), working with the Representative Director of the Japan Mission board to approve and remove individuals to the Japan Mission board, in accordance with the constitution of the Japan Mission; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager, World Mission be named as the alternate designated representative empowered to act in the stead of Director, World Mission in the event that the Director, World Mission is unable to act when needed.

For-Profit Prisons, Jails, and/or Detention Centers be Added to the List of Companies for Divestment and/or Proscription of Investment Ownership (B.104) The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board recommends to the 221st General Assembly (2014) that the category of publicly traded corporations that directly manage or operate for-profit prisons, jails and/or detention centers be added to the list of companies from which the General Assembly urges divestment and/or proscription of investment ownership.

A recommendation for the Presbyterian Mission Agency to become an official member of the We Will Speak Out campaign (B.112) The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve membership in We Will Speak Out, a faith-based coalition working together to spark a movement to end sexual violence in the U.S. and the world.

Mission Responsibility Through Investment Report and Recommendations to the 221st General Assembly (2014): Engagement with Corporations on Israel-Palestine Issues from 2004 – 2013 (B.105) The Justice Committee **VOTED** to approve the following recommendation:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, upon recommendation from the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment, recommends that the 221st General Assembly (2014) do the following:

- 1. Receive the report of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) of its engagement with corporations involved in Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank.
- 2. Direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment, to continue the corporate engagement process with corporations operating in Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank, together with ecumenical partners, as part of MRTI's regular work plan, in accordance with the previously identified positions and priorities of the General Assembly, and report back on MRTI's engagements, along with any recommendations, to the 222nd General Assembly (2016).
- 3. Affirm the selection criteria developed by the Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.) Foundation, Inc. in collaboration with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), for investment in West Bank owned/sponsored initiatives or companies: economic development, sustainable job creation, peaceful pursuits, Palestinian investments must minimize or eliminate dependence on Israel or others, transparency of use and impact, and the possibility of direct engagement with the people and organizations involved in the investments.

- 4. Commend the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, Inc., in collaboration with the Presbyterian Mission Agency, for its successful efforts to identify three investments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories that help in the development of a viable infrastructure for a future Palestinian state, and encourage greater engagement with Christians in the West Bank around issues of job creation and economic development.
- 5. Approve the following resolution: The Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment has been seeking to engage companies profiting from non-peaceful pursuits in Israel-Palestine since the directive of the 216th General Assembly (2004) and the reaffirmations and actions of subsequent Assemblies. This process of engagement has, in the case of three companies, produced no substantive change and, in the judgment of this Assembly, is likely not to do so in the future. Under the church's regular process of corporate engagement (approved by the 116th General Assembly of the PCUS (1976) and reaffirmed as policy after reunion), the final step is to recommend divestment from companies where engagement is not resulting in any change. Therefore, in accordance with the actions of prior Assemblies, we direct that Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions be placed on the General Assembly Divestment List until such time as they have ceased profiting from non-peaceful pursuits in Israel-Palestine, as defined by prior General Assembly actions.

Information items

The Justice Committee received the following items for information:

- PHP Advisory Committee Minutes October 9-11, 2013 (B.200)
- PDA Advisory Committee Minutes October 21-23, 2013 (B.201)
- SDOP National Committee Minutes September 19-21, 2013 (B.202)
- SDOP National Committee Minutes May 16-18, 2013 (B.203)
- MRTI Committee Minutes February 7-8, 2013 (B.204)
- Jinishian Memorial Program United States Advisory Committee Draft Minutes – October 17, 2013 (B.205)
- Jinishian Memorial Program Governance Commission Meeting Draft Minutes October 17, 2013 (B.206)
- On Prayer & Action for Syria (B.207)
- ACSWP Referrals Report (B.208)

The following ministry areas shared reports with the committee members: Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People.

Bob Brashear shared a January 2014 press release by PHEWA seeking

nominations to recognize ministries of social justice during the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Detroit, June 2014.

Report from the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Area

Sara Lisherness presented a report on the Compassion, Peace and Justice (CPJ) ministry and thanked the Justice committee members for their hard work. She shared examples of ways that the ministry has been engaging in God's mission in the world, making God's community livable for all.

Sara stressed the importance of building relationships in order to be really engaged and requested committee members to invite CPJ staff to walk alongside congregations, at Presbytery meetings, and in communities whenever an opportunity presents itself.

Report from the World Mission Ministry Area

Greg Allen-Pickett presented a report on the World Mission ministry and its programs serving global partners, mission personnel and communities of mission practice within the U.S. and around the world. World Mission (WM) is actively engaged in shaping campaigns to address the three critical global initiatives, to train pastors for community transformation, to provide quality education for a million children and one to end violence against women and children.

Greg requested Justice committee members to reach out to WM staff for more information and invited them to use Mission Personnel Prayer Cards in their communities to invite Presbyterians to work together in mission around the world.

Report on the Young Adult Volunteer program

Richard Williams presented a report on the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program where volunteers are called to live abundantly but with less. Tasked by the 220th General Assembly (2012) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the program is on road to expansion in the number of YAV sites, and volunteers, both national and international.

Richard invited Justice committee members to share information in their communities about the YAV program so that they join in financial and prayerful support as a community for the sustainability of the program through the giving catalog and the YAV a Year program support by congregations.

Report on the Office of Public Witness

J. Herbert Nelson, II shared information on the Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day and Advocacy Days in March 2014. The training day, a special pre-conference for Presbyterians, is geared to address the causes of the many types of violence that afflict the world. The national gathering of Ecumenical Advocacy Days will culminate with Congressional Lobby Day on Capitol Hill to call for change in public policy and together lift up a holistic vision of a more just and peaceful world.

Update on Syria

Amgad Beblawi and Laurie Kraus shared a report on their recent visit with members of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), a PC (U.S.A.) partner, to discuss the humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria that has affected nearly 10 million people.

The NESSL invited Beblawi and Kraus, along with other U.S. Presbyterians

and European Christians, to Syria and Lebanon to discuss the humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria and to learn about the holistic role the church plays in the situation.

The Presbyterians listened to our partners to learn about their efforts in addressing humanitarian need, how they understand the conflict, the role of the local church in solving the conflict and being a witness during this time in order to come back to the U.S. and help the PC (U.S.A.) partner with them in that effort. The consultation also addressed future peacebuilding efforts in the region.

The PC (U.S.A.) is looking at ways to assist the refugee situation and to develop projects for education of children adversely affected by the crisis.

Adjournment

Kears Pollock closed in prayer. Noelle Royer adjourned the meeting at Noon.

	Respectfully submitted,
	Noelle Royer, Chair
	Noche Royer, Chair
	Maria Arroyo, Resource Staff
Bill S	omplatsky-Jarman, Resource Staff
	Champaka Srinivasan, Recorder