

**ITEM B.102**  
**FOR ACTION**

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation
	C. Leadership		G. Audit
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

**Subject:**           **Compassion, Peace and Justice Response to Referrals**

**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).**

**I.       Referrals in Progress**

*1.       2008 Referral: Item 09-15. Report, Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future, Recommendation 6. Urge the Presbyterian Foundation, in Collaboration with the General Assembly Mission Council, to Loan \$4 Million to Local Initiatives Support Corporation to Create a Low-Interest Revolving Loan Fund Available to Presbyterian Congregations, Presbyteries, and Coalitions in Which Church Entities Are Involved, in the Affected Gulf Region for Development Loans to Support Construction and Rehabilitation of Affordable, Permanent Rental Housing and Mixed Housing Attached to Congregational Redevelopment, or to Fund Neighborhood Initiatives Organized by Community Development Corporations in Which a Presbyterian Congregation or Presbytery Is Involved—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 54, 55, 994–1009).*

*Response:*       The Final Report will be presented to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016).

*2.       2012 Referral: Item 11-05. On Calling for an End to the Practice of Corporal Punishment in Homes, Schools, and Childcare Facilities. Recommendation 3. Direct the Appropriate General Assembly Committees to Provide Limited Bibliography of Resources Presenting Alternative Effective Methods of Discipline to Corporal Punishment—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 30–31, 1041–44 of the CD; p. 239 of the printed copy).*

*3.       2012 Referral: Item 11-05. On Calling for an End to Corporal Punishment in Homes, Schools, and Childcare Facilities. Recommendation 4. That the Listed Supporting Documentation Be Posted Online, Hosted by the Child Advocacy Office—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 30–31, 1041–44 of the CD; pp. 239–40 of the printed copy).*

*Response to Items 2 and 3:*       Due to the staff vacancy in the Child Advocacy Program, the Final Response will be presented to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016).

4. 2012 Referral: *Item 11-20. A Statement on the Housing and the Mortgage Crisis. Recommendation. MRTI to Report Back to the 221st General Assembly (2014) on Ways for the Church to Respond to the Housing and Mortgage Crisis—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 34, 1118—22 of the CD; p. 253 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Final Report will be presented to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016). The Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has continued to engage major banking and financial institutions, including Bank of America, Citigroup, J. P. Morgan, Chase and Wells Fargo, on their performance in mortgage servicing and foreclosure avoidance. MRTI has also been advocating for increased investment in multi-family housing.

5. 2012 Referral: *Item 14-05. Encountering the Gospel of Peace Anew: An Invitation to Discernment and Witness, an Interim Report to the 220th General Assembly (2012). Recommendation 2. Direct That Any Policy Changes from the Peace Discernment Steering Team Be Brought to the 221st General Assembly (2014) by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy in Coordination with the General Assembly Mission Council—From the Peace Discernment Steering Team (Minutes, 2012, Part I, 61, 63, 1333—47 of the CD; p. 280 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The report and recommendations in *Risking Peace in a Fearful World*, developed by the Peace Discernment team in consultation with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, will be brought to the 2014 General Assembly and will contain a presbytery-based plan to complete the churchwide discernment process at the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016).

6. 2012 Referral: *Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 1. The MRTI Committee Is Instructed to Request Information and Explanations of Health Insurance Company Policy and Practice on: State and Federal Lobbying Expenditures and Political/Campaign Contributions, Government Subsidies and Profit Margins Related to Provisions of the Healthcare ‘Reform’ Legislation, Aggregate Data on Increases in Premiums and Deductibles Over the Past Ten Years, Categories and Percentages of Claims Denied, and Percentages of Profits Used in Compensating Top Executives in Comparison with Return to Shareholders—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687—92 of the CD; p. 341 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Final Report will be presented to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016).

7. 2012 Referral: *Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 3. MRTI Is Asked to Evaluate the Variance Between Church Principles of Universal Access and Affordability and Corporate Objectives, to Assess the Likelihood of Significant Change in Corporate Behavior, and to Recommend to the GAMC and General Assembly, Including Possible Divestment, That Would Strengthen the Integrity of the Church’s Practice—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687—92 of the CD; p. 341 of the printed copy).*

8. 2012 Referral: *Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 4. The GAMC, the Presbyterian Foundation, and the Board of Pensions Are Requested to Report on Their Actions to the 221st and the 222nd General Assembly (2014) and (2016), with an Eye to Guiding Individual Presbyterians, Congregations, and Mid Councils in Relation to Their Own Investment Holdings in This Major Part of the Economy—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687—92 of the CD; p. 341 of the printed copy).*

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*Response to Items 7 and 8:* The Final Report will be presented to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (2018) following corporate engagement based upon the research developed as the Affordable Care Act takes effect. As corporate engagement is a process that takes time for correspondence, dialogues, and shareholder resolutions, the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment believes that it will need at least that much time to bring a corporate engagement program to completion.

## II. Final Response to Referrals

1. *2008 Referral: Item 09-10. Report, The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming, Recommendation 3.b. Urge the “Restoring Creation” Program to Establish a Presbyterian Green Energy Fund, Which Would Help Congregations and Other Organizations in Our Church Reduce Their Carbon Footprint Through Investments in Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Production, and Green-e Certified Carbon Offsets—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 54, 55, 934–58).*

*Response:* The Environmental Ministries Program has created an energy fund to help congregations reduce their carbon footprint (see <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/H000142/>). This fund has been advertised through social media and e-newsletters. When it has received enough financial support, a process will be created to allow congregations and other organizations to apply for funds to reduce carbon footprint in the ways outlined above. Meanwhile, other funding is compiled and communicated on occasion by Environmental Ministries to Presbyterians, such as through this blog posting: <http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey/2013/6/17/financial-resources-converting-renewable-energy/>.

2. *2010 Referral: Item 09-NB. Convocation on Criminal Justice. Recommendation. That the PC(U.S.A.) Provide Up to \$10,000 in 2011 to Support a Broad Convocation of Interested Individuals, to Be Called by PHEWA, to Consider and Propose the Creation of a Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association (PHEWA) Network on Criminal Justice for Education and Advocacy Ministries to the 220th General Assembly (2012) and Recommend a Funding Strategy—From the 219th General Assembly (2010) (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 72, 83, 705).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) held a consultation at Stony Point Conference Center on February 17-19, 2012. Interactive presentations were made by Presbyterians with expertise and experience in criminal justice issues, as well as by ministry partners from the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. An interim network leadership team was established at this consultation. On September 6, 2012, the PHEWA Board of Directors voted to accept the Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network (PCJN) as the newest grassroots ministry network of PHEWA.

3. *2010 Referral: Item 11-03. On Making Resources Available Regarding Destruction and Loss of Coastal Wetlands. Recommendation 3. Establish Financial Support for a Theological Wetlands Education Center in the Presbytery of South Louisiana for Presbyterians of All Ages to Learn to Be Stewards of the Wetlands and Proactive in Their Repair—From the Presbytery of South Louisiana (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 39, 41, 810–12).*

*Response:* The Environmental Ministries Program has created a fund to garner financial support (See <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/H000141/>). Environmental Ministries is also in conversation with presbytery leaders of the emerging Theological Wetlands Education Center to find out how best to support them.

4. *2012 Referral: Item 09-03. Review of the World Council of Churches. Recommendation 9. Direct the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) to Continue and/or Increase Participation on the Various Committees, Commissions, and Leadership of the WCC as Invited; Request OGA and GAMC to Inform the WCC of Internal Structural Changes or Changes in Personnel so That Invitations May Be Appropriately Offered—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 9, 769–78 of the CD; p. 208 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* Working collaboratively with the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency (formerly General Assembly Mission Council) has informed the World Council of Churches of internal structural changes so invitations may be appropriately offered.

5. *2012 Referral: Item 09-07. Recommendations Regarding Covenant to Adopt the Lund Principle. Recommendation 1. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) and the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) to Give Particular Concern to Implementing the Lund Principle with PC(U.S.A.) Full Communion and Covenant Partners and Where Possible with Other Christian Churches, and to Bring a Progress Report to the 221st General Assembly (2014)—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 9, 10, 780–81 of the CD; p. 209 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Mission Agency has implemented the Lund Principle, launching several new initiatives with full communion and covenant partners since the 220th General Assembly (2012). Some highlights of these efforts include: initiating a relationship with the Church of England to learn about and dialogue around church development and redevelopment; planning a joint regional training event/conference about evangelism with the United Methodist Church; Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; expanding the West Africa Initiative, a post-civil war sustainable development project that includes the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Disciples of Christ. These efforts are in addition to existing ecumenical efforts in responding to disasters, caring for creation, hunger and poverty alleviation, corporate engagement, collegiate and youth ministries and equipping people to engage in advocacy with elected leaders.

6. *2012 Referral: Item 11-03. On Endorsing a “Fifty Year Farm Bill.” Recommendation 2. Direct the Director of the General Assembly Mission Council to Endorse “A Fifty Year Farm Bill,” Which Is Related to Perennialization of Crops and Biodiversity with the Goal of Social and Ecological Sustainability. Also, Direct the Stated Clerk to Correspond with Members of Congress on Our Position—From the Presbytery of Heartland (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 29, 1035–39 of the CD; p. 238 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness has been very engaged in the Farm Bill reauthorization, including emphasis on conservation and sustainable agriculture. These issues make up a constant component of our environmental and agriculture advocacy. The Stated Clerk sent a letter to this effect to Members of Congress on July 26, 2013.

7. *2012 Referral: Item 11-03. On Endorsing a “Fifty Year Farm Bill.” Recommendation 3. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, Office of Public Witness,, to Orient Their Advocacy and Programs Concerning Agriculture and Food Supply in Accordance with the Listed Principles and Goals—From the Presbytery of Heartland (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 29, 1035–39 of the CD; p. 238 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW), in consultation with the Presbyterian Hunger Program and ecumenical and interfaith partners, has been very engaged in the Farm Bill reauthorization. The PC(U.S.A.) signed “Faithful Farm Bill Principles” with our ecumenical and interfaith colleagues, and these principles touch on most of these points. Since the 220th General Assembly (2012), the OPW has published 26 blog posts, 9 email action alerts, and countless Facebook posts and tweets on the Farm Bill (as of November 2013). OPW staff has also given presentations on the Farm Bill and the PC(U.S.A.)’s

priorities for a fair food and farm system. In addition, our major annual events, Compassion, Peace, and Justice (CPJ) Training Day Conference and Ecumenical Advocacy Days had a theme of food justice. Likewise, the Big Tent CPJ Partner conference focused on food justice, where participants learned about these priorities, engaged in education, advocacy, and reflection on what a just food system should be.

8. *2012 Referral: Item 11-07. On Support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Recommendation 2. Direct the Stated Clerk and Appropriate Offices of the General Assembly Mission Council to Support the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Affirming the Agency's Mandates and Goals to Protect Public Health and the Environment and by Advocating for Adequate Funding for EPA—From the Presbytery of Baltimore (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 31–32, 1049–53 of the CD; p. 241 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been active in supporting the authority and budget of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Through our budget and appropriations work, we have worked to protect the EPA's budget. We have also done blog posts on EPA issues since the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012), with more planned. The topic of one of the OPW's Second Tuesday briefings was on EPA budget and oversight authority. The OPW also participated in the EPA's public hearing on carbon pollution, authority under the Clean Air Act, on November 7. OPW staff helped to plan a prayer service outside the EPA as the hearing began and Director for the Office of Public Witness offered testimony during the hearing.

9. *2012 Referral: Item 11-07. On Support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Recommendation 4. Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC(U.S.A.) and the Office of Public Witness to Urge Congress to Restore the EPA's Full Oversight Authority Under the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Acts—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 31–32, 1049–53 of the CD; p. 241 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* This letter from the Stated Clerk was sent to Congress in Fall 2013. The Office of Public Witness also includes concern for the waters of the U.S. in its environmental advocacy and in its 2012 celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

10. *2012 Referral: Item 11-07. On Support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Recommendation 5. Direct the Office of Environmental Ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council to Identify Resources Addressing Legal and Environmental Issues with Regard to Extraction of Natural Gas in Order to Educate Presbyterians and Protect the Environments in Which They Live, Worship, Farm and Locate Their Camps and Conference Centers—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 31–32, 1049–53 of the CD; p. 241 of the printed copy).*

*Responses:* The Environmental Ministries Program continues to be in conversation with Presbyterians over natural gas extraction, including Pittsburgh Presbytery which had a study process about fracking (hydraulic water fracturing). This new process of natural gas extraction is one of the more controversial subjects and this web page was developed to help identify and address legal and other issues: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/fracking/>.

11. *2012 Referral: Item 11-08. A Resolution on Racism, Incarceration, and Restoration. Recommendation 2. Direct That a Study Be Prepared and Shared with the Church for Action at Every Level Investigating Whether There Is the Connection Between "the War on Drugs" and Incarceration as a Way of Social Management—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1053–55 of the CD; pp. 241–42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* A study was provided through the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) demonstrating the connection between the “war on drugs” and incarceration as a way of social management and is available online at <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pcjn> and <http://www.phewacommunity.org/>.

*12. 2012 Referral: Item 11-08. A Resolution on Racism, Incarceration, and Restoration. Recommendation 3. Develop a Working Group to Work with Our Ecumenical Partners in Creating Coalitions or Networks to Support Strategies to Aid Reentry of Former Prisoners into Our Communities—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1053–55 of the CD; pp. 241–42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The leadership team of Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association’s (PHEWA) Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network (PCJN) planned and conducted an ecumenical consultation that resulted in the establishment of an ecumenical coalition to support strategies to aid reentry of former prisoners. The consultation, “PLACE-MAKING: Creating Community After Incarceration,” took place January 24 - 26, 2014 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in partnership with The Pittsburgh Project and The Foundation of HOPE.

*13. 2012 Referral: Item 11-08. A Resolution on Racism, Incarceration, and Restoration. Recommendation 4. Collaborate with Mid Councils and Churches Working with Prisoners Reentering Our Communities and Gather Models That Can Be Shared Across the Church—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1053–55 of the CD; pp. 241–42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The reentry strategies developed at the Pittsburgh consultation, PLACE-MAKING: Creating Community After Incarceration, held January 24 - 26, 2014, were shared with Mid Councils and Churches working with reentry issues, resulting in the collaborative development of replicable models.

*14. 2012 Referral: Item 11-08. A Resolution on Racism, Incarceration, and Restoration. Recommendation 5. Direct the Office of Public Witness to Advocate to Congress for Fair Application of Existing Laws and Reasonable Sentencing of Drug Possession and Nonviolent Offenses That Have a Disproportionate and Adverse Impact on the Racial Ethnic Community, and Families—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1053–55 of the CD; pp. 241–42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) is advocating on these issues with the Samuel L. Proctor Conference and Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC) Partners through the larger context of ending mass incarceration. OPW has participated in on-going organizing efforts to reduce sentencing on minor drug possession charges and non-violent offences with both grassroots leaders (Proctor Conference) and the Interfaith community of WISC.

*15. 2012 Referral: Item 11-09. World of Hurt, Word of Life: “Renewing God’s Communion in the Work of Economic Reconstruction.” The Churches Work in Today’s Fallen Economy, Recommendation 1.e. Requests the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP), in Cooperation with Appropriate Ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council, to Provide Relevant and Accessible Resources for Gathering and Study Groups—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1059 of the CD; p. 246 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The report itself was printed and distributed on-line with the addition of study questions and suggestions for worship application. Sections of the report have been excerpted in shorter

downloadable form through the online journal *Unbound* ([www.justiceUnbound.org](http://www.justiceUnbound.org)), the successor to *Church & Society* magazine. Other ministries have shared copies of the report, as has the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) in several presbytery events and at the Big Tent.

16. 2012 Referral: Item 11-09. *World of Hurt, Word of Life: “Renewing God’s Communion in the Work of Economic Reconstruction. The Church’s Work in Today’s Fallen Economy, Recommendation 2.b. Directs the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, in Consultation with the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns, to Provide Resources to Support the Witness Described in 2.a. for Presenting the Church’s Views on Economic and Civic Responsibility, Sustainable Economic Development, Strong Public Ethics—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1059 of the CD; p. 246 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The report has been distributed to ecumenical, racial justice, and social justice organizations related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the Oikotree network (related to the North American and Caribbean churches, members of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the World Council of Churches in this hemisphere), partners in the National Council of Churches of Christ, Tax Justice Network, and public policy advocates connected to the Ecumenical Advocacy Days. The report has also been sent to middle governing bodies and to the Social Ethics Network, which includes professors of ethics and religion in our seminaries and in many colleges. A discussion of the report was held at Auburn and Union Seminaries in the Fall of 2012.

17. 2012 Referral: Item 11-10. *A Resolution on Workers’ Rights and Income Inequality. Recommendation 5. Direct the Office of Public Witness to Engage in Advocacy for Collective Bargaining Rights for All Workers as a Part of a Comprehensive Strategy to Preserve the Middle Class in the United States, Who Have a Crucial Role in the Economic Recovery—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32, 1082-84 of the CD; p. 248 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) work with Interfaith for Worker Justice (IWJ) and Comprehensive Immigration Reform addresses Advocacy for Collective Bargaining for All Workers. These coalitions bring the OPW in touch with both faith and labor organizations. Advocacy on the issue of protecting the middle class is being done on many fronts since this struggle is lodged between many issues including budget, employment and immigration.

18. 2012 Referral: Item 11-16. *A Resolution to Ensure Implementation of Updated and Detailed Safe Child Policy in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 1. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, with the Aid of the Child Advocacy Office, to Create a New Source Concerning Safe Child Measures in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) That Can Be Available for Presbyteries and Individual Churches—From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 33, 1090—91 of the CD; p. 250 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network (PCAN), a network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), reviewed and updated the Child Safe Policy resource which is available at <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pcan> and <http://www.phewacommunity.org/>.

19. 2012 Referral: Item 11-16. *A Resolution to Ensure Implementation of Updated and Detailed Safe Child Policy in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 2. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, with the Aid of the Child Advocacy Office, to Create Sample Safe Child Policies That Would Be Available Online for Use in Presbyteries and Individual Churches as a Resource for Developing Their Own Safe Child Policies—From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 33, 1090—91 of the CD; p. 250 of the printed copy).*



*Response:* The Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network (PCAN), a network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), developed sample Child Safe Policies. They have been made available at <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pcan> and <http://www.phewacommunity.org/>.

20. *2012 Referral: Item 11-18. A Resolution on Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault. Recommendation 1. Direct the GAMC to Seek Advice from the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., on How to Educate and Advocate for Ending the Problem of Rape Kit Backlogs in the United States—From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 34, 1114–15 of the CD; p. 252 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been active in educating Presbyterians about sexual assault and relationship violence through its work on the Violence Against Women Act. OPW Summer Fellow devoted significant time to research on next steps and creating educational material. The OPW will continue to engage on issues of sexual assault, violence against women, and relationship violence.

21. *2012 Referral: Item 11-18. A Resolution on Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault. Recommendation 2. Direct the PC(U.S.A.) to Stand Behind the Justice for Sexual Assault Survivors Act of 2011 and Advocate for Its Passing—From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 34, 1114–15 of the CD; p. 252 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been actively engaged in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), in which the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act (not the bill named in this overture, but similar to it) to reduce rape kit backlogs was included. The bill was approved by Congress in early 2013, in a stunning bipartisan vote in both chambers of Congress. No data is yet available as to the effectiveness of these new provisions. From the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) until July, 2013, the OPW published 11 blog posts about VAWA, sent six email action alerts, and posted countless Facebook posts and tweets. The OPW also requested and received Presbyterian Mission Agency permission to join and participate in the Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition, which is a good partner on these and many other issues related to sexual and relationship violence. The OPW is also considering what are the best ways to support military victims of sexual assault through legislation or executive order.

22. *2012 Referral: Item 11-19. On Advocating for Trade Reform and Accountability. Recommendation 2. Request the Office of Immigration Issues of the Office of General Assembly, and the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Area of the General Assembly Mission Council to Report Back to the 221st General Assembly (2014) on the Status of Trade Issues and the Concerns Expressed in the Discussions within the Church—From the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 34, 1115–18 of the CD; p. 253 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) Joining Hands Initiative, in collaboration with the Office of Public Witness (OPW), has engaged this overture with the following actions:

1. PHP provided, through which more than 1,000 Presbyterians engaged in, work to stop both the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and implementation of the fast track process by the administration, due to the additional powers given corporations within the agreement, according to leaked documents, in partnership with Red Uniedo Manos in Peru.
  - a. More than 1,000 “Take Action” letters were sent to President Obama via CapWhiz on the TPP itself.

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- b. More than 2,000 postcards, to date, have been sent to members of the House of Representatives opposing fast track.
  - c. Many letters and cards were followed up with telephone calls within presbyteries and by letters from Presbytery Executives drafted by PHP.
  - d. Individual pastors and Presbytery representatives visited elected officials in approximately 30 district offices.
2. PHP produced trade reform posters and postcards utilized in churches and by secular groups, such as the Citizens Trade Campaign. Ninety Presbyterians participated in a webinar on the TPP and 40 more on a webinar on fast track; both are lodged on the trade page, [www.pcusa.org/trade](http://www.pcusa.org/trade). PHP is also working on a bible study that addresses trade issues through scripture (available in March 2014). Trade Game is being developed and piloted and will be available Spring 2014.
  3. The OPW is visiting Congressional leaders on fast track alongside the Inter-faith Committee on Trade Justice.
  4. PHP staff preached at least seven times this year on texts related to trade in U.S. congregations.
  5. The Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act was not introduced into Congress as planned; similar legislation is under development and the OPW and PHP are tracking its progress.
  6. Jed Koball, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-worker, visited congregations speaking on trade issues and its impact in Peru and the United States.

23. *2012 Referral: Item 12-04. On Advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Recommendation 4. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, Through Office of Public Witness and Other Related Ministries, and the Office of the General Assembly, Through the Office of Immigration Issues, to Advocate for Other Measures That Will Improve the Plight of Immigrants in Our Midst—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 57–58, 1142–46 of the CD; pp. 259–60 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) is actively engaged in the congressional debate over comprehensive immigration reform. Immigration is a top priority for the OPW in the 2013 legislative year, which is incredibly timely with the congressional action on immigration reform. The OPW annual issues brochure identifies “Welcoming our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters” as a key priority. We have devoted 100% of the time of our Bill Emerson Hunger Fellow (6-month term in the office) to immigration reform issues, and she has been very engaged in the debate. She and other office staff are also intentional about collaborating with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Immigration Issues in the Office of General Assembly. From January to July, 2013, the OPW published sixteen blog posts, four email action alerts, and countless Facebook posts and tweets. The immigration debate slowed down after the activity in the Senate over the summer, 2013, and movement in the House is slow. The OPW will continue, in concert with the Office of Immigration Issues, to monitor this issue and to invite Presbyterians to action.

24. *2012 Referral: Item 12-05. On the Plight of Indonesian Christian Immigrants and the Passage of the Indonesian Family Refugee Protection Act. Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness to Advocate on Capitol Hill for Passage of the Proposed Legislation and Its Enactment into Law—From the Presbytery of Newark (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 58–59, 1147–49 of the CD; p. 261 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* In consultation with World Mission, a letter was sent to all members of congress in support of the Christian Indonesians, advocating a just resolution to their immigration status. After discussing the issue with immigration staff of Church World Service, the OPW decided the best course of

action would be to advocate for a provision to be included in the immigration reform bill that would alleviate the current impasse and allow the Indonesian Christians to apply for asylum. The specific legislation that was mentioned in this referral only has one cosponsor who is deceased. As it is highly unlikely that this legislation will move forward, taking action to include something in the immigration reform bill seemed the wiser path to take.

25. *2012 Referral: Item 12-10. Commissioners' Resolution. Regarding Safe Communities for Everyone. Recommendation 2. Direct the Stated Clerk and the Office of Public Witness in Washington D.C., to Communicate to President Obama, Director of Homeland Security, Director on Immigration, Customs and Enforcement, and the United States Congress, Calling for the Termination of the S-Comm Program, Detailing the Detrimental Impact of S-Comm on the Security of Our Families and Our Communities (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 60, 1157–58 of the CD; p. 264 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW), in collaboration with the Office on Immigration Issues, prepared a letter for the Stated Clerk to communicate to President Obama, Director of Homeland Security, Director of Immigration, Customs and Enforcement, and the United States Congress, calling for the termination of the S-Comm Program, detailing the detrimental impact of S-Comm on the security of our families and our communities. The letter was posted in the denomination's web site at <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/opposing-hr-2278/>.

The OPW remains committed to advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and working closely with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Immigration Issues and the Stated Clerk.

26. *2012 Referral: Item 12-11. Commissioners' Resolution. On the Plight of Immigrant People in Our Neighborhoods and Communities of Faith. Recommendation 4.f. Direct the PC(U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness to Make Immigration Reform One of the Top Policy Issues in Their Work with Members of Congress and the White House (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 60, 1159–60 of the CD; pp. 264–65 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* Immigration is a top priority for the Office of Public Witness (OPW) in the 2013 legislative year, which is incredibly timely with the congressional action on immigration reform. The OPW annual issues brochure identifies “Welcoming our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters” as a key priority. We have devoted 100% of the time of our Bill Emerson Hunger Fellow (6-month term in the office) to immigration reform issues, and she has been very engaged in the debate. She and other office staff are also intentional about collaborating with the Office of Immigration Issues in the Office of the General Assembly. OPW published 16 blog posts, four email action alerts, and countless Facebook posts and tweets. The OPW will continue, in concert with the Office of Immigration Issues, to monitor this issue and to invite Presbyterians to action.

27. *2012 Referral: Item 12-11. Commissioners' Resolution. On the Plight of Immigrant People in Our Neighborhoods and Communities of Faith. Recommendation 4.g. Direct the PC(U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness and PC(U.S.A.) Related Agencies to Actively Seek and Engage Denominational Partners and Faith-Based Organizations That Are Working on Immigration Reform (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 60, 1159–60 of the CD; pp. 264–65 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) is very engaged with the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC). OPW staff attends coalition meetings; participate in strategy sessions, advocacy visits, vigils, protests, press conferences, etc. We also republish some of the action alerts prepared by partners in the IIC. OPW has also been active in engaging with immigrant groups in the greater Washington area.

28. 2012 Referral: Item 12-11. Commissioners' Resolution. *On the Plight of Immigrant People in Our Neighborhoods and Communities of Faith. Recommendation 4.h. Direct the GAMC and Related Agencies to Work Together with the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC), the Office of Immigration Issues, and PC(U.S.A.) Racial Ethnic Caucuses in a Coordinated Strategy with Interested Presbyteries to Create Political Will Towards Immigration Reform (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 60, 1159—60 of the CD; pp. 264—65 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness has worked closely with the Office of Immigration Issues in order to engage Presbyterians around the justice issues involved in comprehensive immigration reform, focusing on a pathway to citizenship, family unity, and human rights concerns over militarization of our southern border. We have been in touch regularly with the Office of Immigration Issues to make sure that our strategy is correct and that we are on message.

29. 2012 Referral: Item 14-01. *On Supporting the United Nations. Recommendation 7. Call Upon the United States Government to a. Foster Peacemaking Through Multilateral Diplomacy Rather Than Unilateral Forces; b. Support Efforts to Strengthen the United Nations and the Rule of International Law; c. Assure That Its Financial Obligations to the United Nations Are Adequately and Promptly Met; d. Overturn Laws That Mandate an Automatic Cut-Off of U.S. Support to UN Agencies That Allow Palestine as a Member; and e. Show Its Commitment to the Extension of International Order by the Ratification of Major International Treaties Still Pending Action in the U.S.—From the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 62—63, 1301—04 of the CD; p. 275 of the print copy).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations worked with the Office of Public Witness and the Office of the Stated Clerk to send a letter with these calls to the persons in the United States Government identified in 2012 Referral: Item 14-01.

30. 2012 Referral: Item 14-02. *On Support for the People of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Recommendation 2. Direct the Stated Clerk to Communicate to the President of the United States, the U.S. State Department, and Appropriate Congressional Leaders the Need to Ensure That the Fundamental Human Rights and the Political Will of the Congolese People Are Fully Respected by the Strengthening of Transparent, Accountable, and Effective Democratic Institutions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and to Call Upon the Government of the United States to Do the Items Listed in a. Through g.—From the Presbytery of Boston (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 63, 1304-08 of the CD; pp. 275—76 of the print copy).*

*Response:* In consultation with the World Mission Africa Office, a letter from the Stated Clerk advocating for the items in 2012 Referral: Item 14-02 was sent December 1, 2013.

31. 2012 Referral: Item 14-02. *On Support for the People of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Recommendation 3. Direct the Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations to Advocate for Public Policy That Addresses Items a. Through d.—From the Presbytery of Boston (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 63, 1304—08 of the CD; pp. 275—76 of the print copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has advocated for the human rights of the Congolese people; transparent, accountable, and effective democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and conditions conducive to free, fair, and credible elections; transparency in extractive industries; the minimization of the impact of conflict minerals; and quality primary and secondary education in the DRC with Congress and the Administration. The OPW has organized an advocacy day for members of the Congo Mission Network. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) has done similar advocacy in meetings with representatives of the United Nations Security Council.

Action alerts inviting Presbyterians to contact Congress in support of these positions have been created and shared with members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Staff from the OPW and the PMUN are in frequent contact with the Congo Mission Network.

32. *2012 Referral: Item 14-03. For Human Rights and Civic Freedom: Movements for Democratic Change in the Arab World. Recommendation 2.b.1. In Conjunction with the Peace Discernment Process Authorized by the 219th General Assembly (2010), and in Relation to U.S. Foreign and Military Experience and Policy, Members and Friends of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Are Encouraged to Share Their Responses to This Resolution and Other Reflections on Their Work or Service. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Is Directed to Provide a Suitable Web Posting of All Viewpoints—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 63, 1308–14 of the CD; pp. 277–78 of the print copy).*

*Response:* The Advisory Committee has presented this resolution in several articles and editorials on *Unbound* and has had some online discussion, although there have been no extended or personal contrasting views sent to us in relation to arguments of the report (<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/human-rights-and-civic-freedom-movements-democrati/>). It has been distributed in several international conferences, shared with ecumenical partners, and cited in public statements of the Stated Clerk and Office of Public Witness.

33. *2012 Referral: Item 14-03. For Human Rights and Civic Freedom: Movements for Democratic Change in the Arab World. Recommendation 2.c.2. The Office of Public Witness, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and Other Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Are Directed to Advocate for Policies Consistent with the Listed Affirmations; to Encourage the Protection of Human Rights, Etc.—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 63, 1308–1314 of the CD; pp. 277–79 of the print copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness has advocated for policies consistent with the listed affirmations with Congress and the Administration. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations has advocated for policies consistent with the listed affirmations in meetings with representatives of the United Nations Security Council and within the United Nations community. Both offices have consulted with other ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and with the Office of General Assembly in their advocacy work.

34. *2012 Referral: Item 15-02. On Boycotting Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories and Hadiklaim (an Israeli Date Growers Cooperative). Recommendation 1. Call upon nations to prohibit the import of products made by enterprises in Israeli settlements on Palestine land—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2012), Part I, pp.41, 1367 of the CD; p. 281 of the print copy).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, in consultation with the Office of the Stated Clerk and the World Mission area coordinator for the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia, shared this call in a statement that went to the member states of the United Nations on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

35. *2012 Referral: Item 15-02. On Boycotting Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories and Hadiklaim (an Israeli Date Growers Cooperative). Recommendation 2. Call for the Boycott of All Israeli products Coming from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Including AHAVA Dead Sea Laboratories Beauty Products and All Date Products of Hadiklaim, The Israel Date Growers Co-Operative Ltd, often marked by the Brand Names: King Solomon Dates and Jordan River (Not Israeli products from Israel.)—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 41, 1366–70 of the CD; p. 281 of the print copy).*

*Response:* A staff team comprised from the Office of Public Witness (OPW), Presbyterian Ministry to the United Nations (PMUN) and the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) conducted research on consumer products and goods produced in the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. By June 2014, a website will be developed and provide General Assembly policies, information on settlements and why they are an obstacle to a just peace, lists of products to boycott, and campaigns individual Presbyterians can support. This information served as a basis for a communication by the Stated Clerk inviting mid-councils, congregations and individual Presbyterians to support the boycott.

In addition, a consultation was held at the PMUN for various Presbyterian Church groups and staff to increase coordination of boycott activities. Also, in partnership with other faith-based investors, MRTI engaged several retailers selling consumer products from the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

36. *Alternate Resolution to 2012 Referral: Item 15-11. 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. Recommendation 1. Call for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Pursue a Positive and Creative Course of Action with Respect to the Current Palestinian-Israeli Conflict That Will Make a Difference in the Lives of Those Who Are Most Vulnerable on All Sides and That Will Preserve an Effective Witness to Peace in the Entire Region—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 39, 42–43, 1399–1410 of the CD; p. 285 of the print copy).*

*Response:* Considerable attention has been given to the situation in Israel and Palestine. Mission Personnel remained in the region until late 2013, and work was done to strengthen the bonds with ecumenical partners in the region. This work was augmented by several visits by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members and staff, church members involved in congregation to congregation partnerships, and tours led by Presbyterians permitting participants to encounter the people and the reality within which they live.

Work was done by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation in partnership with the Presbyterian Mission Agency to identify investments in the West Bank that would contribute to the economic well-being of Palestinians without normalizing or strengthening the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories, or being seen as an substitute for a political solution to the conflict. In addition, corporate engagement with companies operating in Israel and Palestine urged the companies to practice equal employment opportunity in hiring to promote integration and better understanding across religious and ethnic lines.

37. *2012 Referral: Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 2. The MRTI Committee Is Instructed to Be in Conversation with the PC(U.S.A.) Board of Pensions to Ensure the PC(U.S.A.) Health Plan Submits to the Same Standards That PC(U.S.A.), Through MRTI, Asks of Other Insurers—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687–92 of the CD; p. 341 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Board of Pensions was reviewed by a General Assembly Review Committee as part of the normal periodic review process. These discussions included the healthcare insurance program and other benefits offered by the Board. The report of the Review Committee will be presented to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014) for its examination and action.

38. 2012 Referral: Item 21-02. *On Instructing the General Assembly to Take Action to Implement the PC(U.S.A.)'s Policy on Inclusion of People with Disabilities. Recommendation 3. Fund the Working Group with New Financial Resources of \$10,060 in 2013 and \$6,360 in 2014 to Be Designated as Directed by the Working Group—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 65, 1692—98 of the CD; pp. 341—42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The designated funding of \$10,060 in 2013 and \$6,360 were used to bring the Working Group to a face-to-face meeting in Louisville, Kentucky and cover expenses related to curriculum development.

39. 2012 Referral: Item 21-02. *On Instructing the General Assembly to Take Action to Implement the PC(U.S.A.)'s Policy on Inclusion of People with Disabilities. Recommendation 4. Direct the Appropriate GAMC Entity to Place a Link on the Homepage of the PC(U.S.A.) to the Policy of 'Living Into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities' and to Encourage Church-Wide Study and Implementation of the Policy—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 65, 1692—98 of the CD; pp. 341—42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* By June 2014, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s website will link to the policy "Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities" accompanied by words of encouragement that congregations and mid councils study and implement the policy.

40. 2012 Referral: Item 21-02. *On Instructing the General Assembly to Take Action to Implement the PC(U.S.A.)'s Policy on Inclusion of People with Disabilities. Recommendation 6. Direct PC(U.S.A.) Entities to Report Back to the 221st General Assembly (2014) the Progress That Has Been Made Since the 220th General Assembly (2012) and the Plan That Fulfills the Recommendations in This Overture—From the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 65, 1692—98 of the CD; pp. 341—42 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The entities designated as working group participants have developed and implemented a plan that fulfills the recommendations of 2012 Referral: Item 21-02 at every level of participation. The Office of the General Assembly will provide a report to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014).

41. 2012 Referral: Item 21-03. *On Providing Just Access to Reproductive Health Care. Recommendation 1. Encourage the Church, Its Members and Councils, and Direct the Office of Public Witness to Support Full Access to Reproductive Health Care for Both Women and Men in Both Private and Public Health Plans, and Direct the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations to Support Similar Access Through International Aid Organizations and Programs—From the Presbytery of Albany (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 65—67, 1698—1701 of the CD; pp. 342—43 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) through Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options have utilized their resources to support full access to reproductive health care. This includes advocacy for the full implementation of health care reform, written support for Medicaid expansion and the requirement that employer health plans include contraception, and collaboration with international Non-Governmental Organization's (NGO) and ecumenical partners to ensure universal access to reproductive care.

42. 2012 Referral: Item 21-03. *On Providing Just Access to Reproductive Health Care. Recommendation 5. Encourage the Church, Its Members and Councils, and Direct the Office of Public Witness to Advocate for More Generously Paid Family and Medical Leave Policies and Corresponding*

*Policies That Provide Quality Childcare and Preschool Programs in Order to Strengthen the Family Life of Working Parents and Promote the Development of Children—From the Presbytery of Albany (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 65–67, 1698–1701 of the CD; pp. 342–43 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Public Witness (OPW) and the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) have demonstrated support for the Healthy Families Act, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act, and other federal programs that meet these goals, through direct communication with Congress and through action alerts inviting Presbyterians to advocate on these issues. Essential to this advocacy is support for federal programs to provide workers with paid sick leave and parental leave, preserve worker/family protections, and create a universal pre-K early education program. The OPW called on Presbyterians to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Family Medical Leave Act and supported a bill in Congress to provide federal workers with paid parental leave. Because the federal government is the nation's largest employer, changes in its own practices and policies toward its workers frequently lead the way to new industry and professional standards.

43. 2012 Referral: Item 21-03. *On Providing Just Access to Reproductive Health Care. Recommendation 6. Encourage the Church, Its Members and Councils, and Direct the Office of Public Witness to Identify and Support Programs That Research Shows to Be Effective in Reducing Unintended Pregnancies and Teenage Pregnancy, Thereby Reducing the Number of Abortions in the U.S. —From the Presbytery of Albany (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 65–67, 1698–1701 of the CD; pp. 342–43 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* Implementation plans are being developed by entities within Compassion, Peace and Justice, including the Office of Public Witness, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA).

44. 2012 Referral: Item 21-05. *Commissioner's Resolution. On Funding for Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN) for AIDS Competency Training. Recommendation 3. Create an Extra Commitment Opportunity Account to Support the AIDS Ministry, to Be Utilized to Support the Development of and Expand Participation in Certification of AIDS Competent Church and Church Leaders Programs and Distribute Information to the Mid Councils and Congregations That Better Educate the Church to the Existence of This Opportunity—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2013, Part I, pp. 64, 68, 1703–05 of the CD; pp. 344–45 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* An Extra Commitment Opportunity Account E051409 (<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E051409/>) now exists to be utilized to support Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN) in the development of and to expand participation in certification of an AIDS competent church and church leaders programs and to distribute information to mid councils and congregations to better educate the Church to the existence of this opportunity.



### III. Reports without Recommendations

1. *2010 Referral: Item 09-07. On Affirming the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association. Recommendation 2. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council to Develop and Apply a Funding Strategy for the Continuing Life of PHEWA Before the End of the Fiscal Year 2012 so That It May Continue to Implement GA-Mandated Ministries as an Entity of Networks and to Report to the 220th General Assembly (2012) the Results—From the Presbytery of Elizabeth (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 72, 81–82, 660–62).*

*Response:* Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) was awarded the remaining \$25,000 of a \$100,000 grant to complete the work begun by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Communications and Funds Development office. PHEWA created a fund-raising task force that developed a comprehensive fund-raising plan that was adopted by the PHEWA board and presented to an all-network leadership gathering in March, 2013. Implementation of this plan began in the Fall 2013. The fund-raising plan follows.

#### **PHEWA Fundraising Strategy and Implementation Plan**

##### **Introduction**

As a hybrid organization PHEWA relies on two separate sources of revenue: the national church, in the form of a funded position and limited staff support within the office of Social Witness Ministries and PHEWA, the independent 501(c)3 nonprofit. This fundraising plan is focused on PHEWA the nonprofit. Its goal is to strengthen PHEWA's financial stability so that PHEWA might continue to interpret and implement General Assembly policy in those areas where individual and community health and justice intersect.

There are two distinct but related component parts to this comprehensive plan: strengthening and increasing the reach of the relational infrastructure on which PHEWA is built; engaging in direct fundraising strategies. Both will require dedicated work groups to achieve these goals – dedicated both in the sense of commitment and willingness to lead by example as well as the sense that this will be the sole focus of work group members with no other PHEWA related tasks assigned to them.

##### I. Relational infrastructure enhancement includes:

1. Congregational and Mid-Council outreach and membership retention
2. Individual membership communication and outreach
3. Identification of and outreach to potential major donors
4. Marketing and publicity
5. The development and upgrade of our member/donor database

##### II. Direct fundraising includes:

1. Board giving
2. Establish endowment fund, design and implement strategy
3. Grants: identify and apply for available grants
4. Major gifts
5. Solicit institutional and individual membership, initial and continuing
6. Special appeals
7. Online giving

##### **Strategy I: Build Relational Infrastructure**

Relational infrastructure upholds and sustains PHEWA. Network leaders and members, and former leaders, all contribute to PHEWA's effectiveness and sustainability through in-kind and financial

donations. The task of the Relational Infrastructure Enhancement Team (RIET) is the development of a multi-pronged plan of outreach and support to the individuals, congregations and mid-councils that constitute the core of PHEWA.

The following five categories of activity were identified by the Funding Strategy Task Force as critical to PHEWA's health and sustainability.

**1. Congregational and Mid-Council outreach, membership retention**

2013 goals:

- Compile lists of all Synods and mid-councils in the PC(USA) including email addresses
- Personal contact with every Synod Executive and presbytery
- Identify congregational members of PHEWA
  - Personal contact
- Identify one congregation in each presbytery that is not yet a PHEWA member for direct solicitation

What networks can do:

- Encourage your own congregation and mid-council to become a PHEWA member

**2. Individual membership communication and outreach**

Purpose: healthy membership base

2013 goals:

- Contact every PHEWA member with a phone call
- Upgrade membership database to include emails

Tasks to achieve goals:

- Phone interview sheet available by April 1
- Member contact assignments made
- Results of outreach turned in (May 15)

What your network can do:

- Keep a current network membership list and maintain a regular schedule of contacting them
- Welcome new members within a week of being notified of their joining
- Notify staff of questions or concerns

**3. Identification of potential major donors and outreach**

Purpose: potential funding stream; opportunity to leave legacy

2013 goals

- Pull names of everyone who has given over \$100 in a one year period within the last three years
- Develop a personal contact schedule
- Identify individuals who need to receive a personal visit

What your network can do:

- Identify potential major donors within your network
- Coordinate visits and/or "asks" with fundraising team

**4. Marketing and publicity**

Purpose: To increase congregational and mid-council awareness of network activities including effective distribution of resource materials

2013 Goals

- Publish articles on PHEWA/PHEWA network activities in 25% of the presbyteries that distribute e-newsletters
- Submit articles to denominational communications staff
- Present information about PHEWA and PHEWA Networks at 25 congregations
- Contact pastors of current PHEWA member congregations offering to lead an adult forum on PHEWA and PHEWA Networks

What your network can do:

- Take pictures at events, presentations etc., send them to Susan Stack and Trina Zelle
- Report on PHEWA/network activities (i.e. display booth at presbytery, leading a workshop on network issue)
- Write articles about your network's activities for your church newsletter
- Ask your church webmaster to create a link to both PHEWA websites
- Download a copy of the PHEWA PowerPoint and use when making network presentations

5. Upgrade member/donor base

Purpose: To ensure accurate records of membership, contributions, and membership contacts

2013 Goals:

- Identify most appropriate software program for PHEWA needs
- Purchase dedicated PHEWA laptop and software
- Transfer information from denominational software to proprietary PHEWA database

What your network can do:

- Maintain a supply of PHEWA membership forms for distribution and collection
- Distribute them and, when possible, collect them. Keep information for your own records as well then send them to Louisville.

**Strategy II: Implement Direct Fundraising\***

Direct fundraising builds on the work of relational infrastructure development and maintenance. The Funding Strategy Task Force identified the following categories for direct fundraising.

1. Board Giving

2013 Goals

- Articulate expectation of giving and/or fundraising for Executive Committee and Network leadership
- Option to include PHEWA in will
- 100% participation at any level of giving

What your Network can do

- Raise awareness with new network leadership

2. Establish endowment fund

2013 Goals

- Set up endowment fund with Presbyterian Foundation
- Design and launch an endowment campaign

What your Network can do

- Raise awareness with network leadership; include in presentations

### 3. Grant Development/Fee for service opportunities

#### 2013 Goals

- Complete Guide Star profile
- Develop five projects in line with PHEWA/CPJ work goals
- Fill out common grant form and keep available
- Approach 3 Synods with fee for service opportunity
- Submit potential grant possibilities to grants working group to determine appropriateness with PHEWA and network project goals

#### What your network can do:

- Decide on a couple of projects that your network has the capacity to complete if you had adequate funding
- Keep projects on file with national office
- Notify national office if an opportunity has arisen. PHEWA will have to sign off on any grant that is submitted, since PHEWA serves as fiscal agent for all of the networks.

### 4. Major gifts

#### 2013 Goals

- Identify 10 potential major gift givers
- Set up visitation schedule and goals
- Prepare for visit in consultation with staff and board members who have a history with given individuals

#### What your network can do:

- Keep in touch with all of your network members. Never assume that someone is not capable of giving.

### 5. Institutional and individual membership

#### 2013 Goals

- Make personal contact with institutional memberships (mid-councils and congregations) including a personal visit if possible
- Make personal contact with individual members preferably from a designated network representative
  - Encourage automatic renewals on an annual basis

#### What your network can do:

- Each network team lead asks own congregation/presbytery to join
- Encourage membership at every presentation that you make

### 6. Online giving

#### 2013 Goals

- Develop separate fund-raising page on website
- Clarify ECO accounts
- Develop online fundraising campaigns to coincide with mailings

#### What your Network can do

- Raise awareness among membership

7. Special appeals

2013 Goals

- Design and schedule fund-raising campaigns based on PHEWA/network accomplishments, projects, or designated Sundays

What your Network can do

- Keep network membership informed
- Provide easy ways for membership to promote campaigns in their own ministry settings

\* Fundraising Goals for 2013 include:

1. Institutional memberships: \$10,000
2. Individual memberships: \$7,000
3. Major Gifts: \$15,000
4. Grants: \$50,000
5. Earned income (training and workshop leadership): \$2,500
6. Special appeals: \$7,500
7. Online giving: 7,500
8. Board giving: 10,500