

**ITEM C.102**  
**FOR ACTION**

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

**Subject:**        **Theology, Worship, and Education Ministry Response to Referrals**

**Recommendation:**

**That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the Theology, Worship, and Education Ministry portion of the Presbyterian Mission Agency report to the 221st GA (2014).**

*Theology, Worship, and Education*

**I. Referrals in Progress**

1.        *2010 Referral: Item 08-04. Report, Toward an Understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations. Recommendation 2. In Consideration of the Need for a More Intentional and Engaged Approach to Christian-Muslim Relations, Call Upon the Church, Through Its Agencies and Governing Bodies, to Support Education for Christian-Muslim Relations Among Presbyterians, by Doing Items a. Through c.—From the General Assembly Mission Council (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 31, 32–33, 589–601).*

*2010 Referral: Item 08-04. Report, Toward an Understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations. Recommendation 3. Call Upon the Church, Through Its Agencies and Governing Bodies, to Support Further Theological Reflection Regarding Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, in Company with Muslims and Within the Christian Family, by Doing Items a. Through c.—From the General Assembly Mission Council (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 31, 32–33, 589–601).*

*2010 Referral: Item 08-04. Report, Toward an Understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations. Recommendation 4. Call Upon the Church, Through Its Agencies and Governing Bodies, to Support Presbyterians in the Practice of Faithful Witness with Muslims, by Doing Items a. Through g.—From the General Assembly Mission Council (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 31, 32–33, 589–601).*

*Response:*        Due to the delay in hiring a new Associate for Interfaith Relations, these items must be deferred until the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

2.        *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 2. Call for a Process of Engagement That Will Bring Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the U.S. into Effective Partnering for Study, Travel, and Social Action—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:* In consultation with World Mission and the Middle East Area Coordinator's Office, the project work on effective partnering is delayed until a new World Mission Liaison for the area is in place.

3. *2012 Referral: Item 12-09. A Resolution to Recognize the Commitment of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Making Just Immigration a Reality. Recommendation. Direct the Office of Immigration Issues and the Office of Theology, Worship and Education to Collaborate in the Development of Accessible Worship and Study Resources That Will Assist Presbyterians in Understanding, Engaging, and Integrating an Ecclesiology of 'Being Church Together'—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 60, 1155–57 of the CD; p. 263 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Office of Immigration and the Office of Theology and Worship need more time to gather immigrant leaders and those engaged in ministry with recent immigrants to best shape this resource on ecclesiology, therefore, this item is deferred until the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

### ***Theology, Worship and Education***

## **II. Final Response to Referrals**

1. *2008 Referral: Item 07-05. Ecumenical Policy Statement, Recommendation 3. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council and the Office of the General Assembly to Develop Materials Based on the Ecumenical Stance of the PC(USA) for Use with Local Congregations—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 14, 15, 516–26).*

*Response:* The General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations has published *God's Unity . . . Our Journey: A Bible study and reflections on the Ecumenical Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. This resource is available for download from the PC(USA) website: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/gods-unity-our-journey/>.

2. *2008 Referral: Item 07-08. Mutual Recognition of Baptism with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Recommendation 3. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, Through the Theology, Worship, and Education Ministries Area, to Develop Congregational Study Guides for the Pastoral Recommendations: Tangible Expression of Mutual Recognition of Baptism and Make Readily Available to Congregations, Pastors, and Seminaries—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 14, 15, 527–31).*

*Response:* The Office of Theology and Worship created a website that includes the full agreement, a summary of its recommendations, a summary of its theological affirmations, and a set of discussion questions. It can be found at: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/these-living-waters-common-agreement-mutual-recogn/> News of this website has been released on the PC(USA) website, Facebook, and Twitter. It has also been mentioned in the e-newsletter "Font and Table", which is sent to over three thousand subscribers interested in sacramental renewal, and in *Call to Worship*.

3. *2008 Referral: Item 07-11. Episcopal Presbyterian Agreement, Recommendation 3.b. Direct the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Mission Council to Work with Presbyteries in Understanding This Agreement and Facilitation Their Partnership with Episcopal Dioceses—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 14, 15, 538–41).*

*Response:* The General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (GACEIR) has developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions for the Episcopal/Presbyterian agreement and has

distributed it throughout the PC(USA). In addition, GACEIR has begun work on two initiatives to help presbyteries understand this agreement and to facilitate partnership:

- GACEIR has begun the identification of congregations where there is PC(USA)/Episcopal shared ministry.
- GACEIR has made connection between the 1001 New Worshiping Communities in the PC(USA) with the corresponding movement in the Episcopal Church.

4. *2010 Referral: Item 08-09. On Referring “Christians and Jews: People of God” and “Understanding Christian-Muslim Relations.” Recommendation. 1. Refer the Report from the Offices of Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship Entitled: ‘Christians and Jews: People of God,’ Back to the Office of Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship to Rewrite the Report After Broader Consultation to Include the National Middle East Presbyterian Caucus, PC(USA) Partner Churches and Agencies in the Middle East, Relevant Mission Networks of the PC(USA), the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns, and the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy; 2. That Correspondence About This Report Between the National Middle East Presbyterian Caucus and the General Assembly Mission Council, and Between the Israel-Palestine Mission Network and the General Assembly Mission Council Be Sent to These Offices and Committee Working on the Revised Paper—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 31, 33, 625–27).*

*Response:* Despite good faith efforts, the process of revision recommended by the Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns and approved by the Assembly has not borne fruit, largely due to the ever heightening tensions within the PC(USA) over Israel/Palestine. This tension has overwhelmed the process of producing a contemporary and comprehensive theological statement on the relationship between Christians and Jews reflective of the diverse perspectives within both the Presbyterian and Jewish American communities.

However, in an effort to fulfill the mandate of the 216th General Assembly (2004) to “reexamine and strengthen the relationship between Christians and Jews and the implications of this relationship for our evangelism and new church development,” the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through its Office of Theology and Worship, offers, “Christians and Jews, People of God: A Contribution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Interfaith Conversation” as a resource for study. The study can be found on the PC(USA) website. Although the study is not comprehensive of all of the themes and perspectives that continue to develop in nuance throughout both our respective religious communities, it reflects a significant effort to reexamine and strengthen our relationships. Therefore, the resource in its current revised form is not offered as a policy statement seeking GA approval but rather as a resource to encourage the furthering of conversation and building of healthy relationships between Christians and Jews.

As the Office of Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship continues to reexamine and strengthen the commitments of Presbyterians and American Jews to one another in expansive ways and invites the wider church to join the process, we will:

1. Continue to be guided by the document, *A Theological Understanding of the Relationship between Christians and Jews* (1987)
2. Further the work of Interfaith Relations through councils, schools, and congregational life in order to strengthen the relationship between American Presbyterians and American Jews as well as deepen already significant relationships with and commitments to Palestinian Christians in the U.S. and in Israel/Palestine, and

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
**February 5-7, 2014**  
**Theology, Worship, and Education Ministry Area**  
**Item C.102**

3. Continue to participate in, support, and encourage the work of American Presbyterians and American Jews who strive to work together for God's justice while upholding the integrity of our unique traditions and perspectives.

5. *2008 Referral: Item 09-08. Report, God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation, Recommendation 2.m. That the Theology, Worship, and Education Ministry Area, in Consultation with Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women, Prepare and Distribute a User-Friendly Instrument Based on the Reformed Tenets of Our Faith for Helping Congregations Achieve Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Justice in Compensation and Other Employment Issues—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 54, 55, 897–923).*

*Response:* An instrument will be prepared by June 1, 2014 and will be located on the PC(USA) website at: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/just-compensation](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/just-compensation).

6. *2010 Referral: Item 10-10. Report, Neither Poverty Nor Riches: Compensation, Equity, and the Unity of the Church. Recommendation 2.e. Request the Committee on Theological Education (COTE) to Convene an Appropriately Structured Discussion Among the Seminaries on the Matter of Compensation Ranges and Sharing Economic Burdens During Recession Periods, Reporting a Digest of Their Findings to the 220th General Assembly (2012)—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 34, 35, 742–72).*

*2012 Referral: Item 16-07. Report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century. Recommendation 3.d. Call on the Committee on Theological Education to Work with PC(USA) Seminaries to Intentionally Recruit and Increase the Numbers of Racial Ethnic and Immigrant Students in the Seminaries—From the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 50, 1463 of the CD; p. 292 of the printed copy).*

*2012 Referral: Item 16-07. Report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century. Recommendation 3.e. Call on COTE to Work with PC(USA) Seminaries to Develop Plans to Hire, Mentor, Support, and Retain Scholars from Underrepresented Communities, and to Commit to Prioritize Finding Candidates to Replace Retiring Faculty with Scholars from Underrepresented Communities—From the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 50, 1463 of the CD; p. 292 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Committee on Theological Education (COTE) is staffed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency in the Theology, Worship, and Education ministry area but reports directly to the General Assembly, and will include a response to this referral in the COTE narrative report to the 221st General Assembly.

7. *2012 Referral: Item 10-16. Women of Color Consultation Committee Report. Recommendation 3. Direct the Office of Theology Worship and Education to Strive to Incorporate the Voices of Racial Ethnic Women in Curriculum and Theological Resources—From the General Assembly Mission Council (Minutes, Part I, pp. 61, 75–76, 854–57 of the CD; p. 230 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) develops and publishes curriculum for all ages of Presbyterians. The denominational curriculum *We Believe* is in the recycle phase of production, meaning that the quarterly curriculum for 2014-15 is being modified and updated from previous years with adjustments to art, activities and format. A new denominational curriculum is being developed and will release in Fall 2015. For the first time, CMP is developing a Spanish-language version of this new

resource simultaneously. The general editor for English resources and the general editor for Spanish-language resources serve as co-leaders on this project. Co-leadership will ensure that the voices of racial ethnic women are represented in both the English and Spanish language versions.

*Feasting on the Word* curriculum is a joint project between Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and CMP. Based on the award winning commentary by the same name, this innovative resource integrates the essays into the curriculum by providing the biblical background for teachers. With over one hundred contributors to the series, many of whom are racial ethnic women, diverse voices are helping to shape the faith formation of the participants as well as those leading the sessions.

The editorial staff of CMP work with the Racial Ethnic Leadership Development manager to identify racial ethnic women who display the skills necessary to write technically and theologically for a denominational curriculum.

8. *2010 Referral: Item 11-03. On Making Resources Available Regarding Destruction and Loss of Coastal Wetlands. Recommendation 2. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, Through Its Congregational Ministries Publishing, to Work in Conjunction with the Presbytery of South Louisiana to Develop Resources on the Implications of Coastal Wetlands Loss for God's Creation and God's Community—From the Presbytery of South Louisiana (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 39, 41, 810–12).*

*Response:* Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) has developed a webpage located at <http://www.presbyterianwetlands.org> that provides free, downloadable resources for youth and adults that explore ways in which Presbyterians can share in caring for creation. This website also points constituents to the Extra Commitment Opportunity (ECO) created by the office of environmental ministries. This enables Presbyterians to have a convenient mechanism to give funds to the Presbytery of Louisiana to support their efforts to protect the wetlands. The ongoing commitment of CMP is to work with the Presbytery of Louisiana to keep the webpage current with information about caring for the wetlands and linking to any other educational resources that have, or will be, developed to educate constituents on the importance of the wetlands ecosystem.

9. *2012 Referral: Item 11-08. A Resolution on Racism, Incarceration, and Restoration. Recommendation 6. Direct That the Office of Theology, Worship and Education Develop a Web Page and Paper on God and Compassion for Prisoners and Ex-Offenders That Addresses Our Role in Helping Implement God's Community as a Place That Is Open for All and Embraces All with Forgiveness and Love. The Web Page and Paper Should List Recommended Resources from Presbyterians Engaged in Such Ministry to Be Available to the Whole 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:* A web page listing PC(USA) resources that address our role in helping implement God's community as a place that is open for all and embraces all with forgiveness will be available by June 1, 2014, to be found at: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racism-incarceration-restoration](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racism-incarceration-restoration). Rather than develop a paper, resources for congregations are being developed by the Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network. These resources include an analysis of the possibilities and challenges of this ministry.

10. *2012 Referral: Item 13-NB. Recommendation. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Enter into a Season of Serious Study and Discernment Concerning Its Meaning of Christian marriage in the Two-Year Period Between the 220th General Assembly (2012) and the 221st General Assembly (2014) and the Office of Theology and Worship Prepare and Distribute educational Materials to All Presbyteries and Congregations (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 46, 47, 1300 of the CD; p. 273 of the print copy).*

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
**February 5-7, 2014**  
**Theology, Worship, and Education Ministry Area**  
**Item C.102**

*Response:* A number of resources have been developed and are available at [www.pcusa.org/marriage](http://www.pcusa.org/marriage). These include a six week study for congregations and councils, a two-hour study specifically for councils, past general assembly statements, and other resources. The availability of these resources has been made widely known through news articles, social media, mid-council communications, and the web platforms. The Office of the General Assembly will report any responses to the Assembly.

11. *2006 Referral: Item 13-05. Report, The Trinity: God’s Love Overflowing. Recommendation 5. Encourage the Office of Theology and Worship to Work with Congregational Ministries Publishing and/or Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to Make Available Liturgical Resources Based on “The Trinity: God’s Love Overflowing”—From the General Assembly Mission Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 11–12, 1108).*

*2006 Referral: Item 13-05. Report, The Trinity: God’s Love Overflowing. Recommendation 6. Encourage the Office of Theology and Worship to Work with Congregational Ministries Publishing and/or Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to Make Available the Historical Resources on Prayer and Worship That Underlie “The Trinity: God’s Love Overflowing”—From the General Assembly Mission Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 11–12, 1108).*

*Response:* The Office of Theology and Worship was “encouraged” to make these liturgical resources available. The office will develop a web resource to be found at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/trinity-gods-love-overflowing](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/trinity-gods-love-overflowing) by the time of the 221st General Assembly (2014) that provides liturgical resources along with historical resources on prayer and worship.

12. *2012 Referral: Item 16-07. Report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century. Recommendation 5. Instruct the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) and the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) to Work Together to Develop and Implement Specific and Comprehensive Plans to Provide Basic Accessibility of Essential GAMC Information to Major Non-English Language Groups, Specifically Korean and Spanish, Via Links on the Web Page, Telephone Answer Prompts, and Other Devices as Technologies and Resources Evolve. The GAMC Will Report to the 221st General Assembly (2014) as to Their Progress—From the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 50, 1464 of the CD; P. 293 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) has worked collaboratively with the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) to develop a plan that will ensure the translation of essential documents in both Korean and Spanish. Recognizing that interpretation of the term *essential* could be different for both constituencies, PMA staff hosted a one-day meeting for each constituency. The participants devised a working document that outlined which existing documents and resources take precedence to be translated and determined which future documents should be included. For both constituencies, it was imperative that the lists include overtures submitted to the General Assembly and statements and media releases produced by the stated clerk. Other items are not mutual to both constituencies and therefore may be translated in one of the stated languages. Participants of both meetings agreed to act as ongoing advisers to the translators should the need arise.

To facilitate the work of translation, the PMA has hired two translators: one for Spanish language and one for Korean language. Both translators were hired in summer 2013 and are actively translating documents. While the translators are employed by the PMA, the costs associated with these new positions are shared with the OGA.

Two web pages (one for each constituency) are being developed. Both web pages will serve as aggregated sites that will link to all respective language-specific resources, announcements, and documents that are being translated. The completion of the web pages is scheduled for spring 2014.

*Response:* El informe del comité especial acerca de la naturaleza de la Iglesia en el siglo XXI. 5. Instruya al Concilio de misión de la Asamblea General y a la Oficina de la Asamblea General a trabajar en el desarrollo de planes específicos para proporcionar accesibilidad básica de información esencial del Concilio de misión de la Asamblea General para los principales grupos de idiomas diferentes al inglés. El Concilio de misión de la Asamblea General informará a la 221va Asamblea General.

La Agencia de misión presbiteriana (PMA por sus siglas en inglés) ha trabajado en colaboración con la Oficina de la Asamblea General (OGA por sus siglas en inglés) para desarrollar un plan que asegure la traducción de los documentos esenciales en coreano y español. Al reconocer que la interpretación de la expresión *esencial* podría ser diferente para los dos grupos, el personal del PMA organizó una reunión de un día para cada grupo. Las personas que participaron elaboraron un documento de trabajo donde describen los documentos existentes y los recursos que tienen prioridad para ser traducidos y determinaron que documentos se deberán traducir en el futuro. Para ambos grupos, fue imperativo que las listas incluyeran mociones presentadas a la Asamblea General y las declaraciones y comunicados de prensa producidos por el secretario permanente. Hay otros artículos que no se adecuan para ambos grupos, por lo que se pueden traducir en una de las lenguas indicadas. Las personas que participaron de ambas reuniones acordaron actuar como grupo asesor en curso a los traductores en caso de necesidad.

Para facilitar el trabajo de traducción, PMA ha contratado a dos traductores: una para el idioma español y uno para el idioma coreano. Ambos traductores fueron contratados en el verano de 2013 y están traduciendo activamente documentos. A pesar de que los traductores son contratados por PMA, los costos asociados con estas nuevas posiciones son compartidos con la Oficina de la Asamblea General.

Se están desarrollando dos páginas web las cuales servirán como sitios agregados que estarán conectadas con todos los recursos, anuncios y documentos de los idiomas en los cuales se está traduciendo. El término de las páginas web está programado para la primavera del 2014.

*Response:* 21세기 교회의 본질에 대한 특별 위원회(SC)의 보고

GAMC와 총회 사무국 (OGA) 에 지시하여 비 영어권 주요 그룹들이 총회 선교 위원회 (GAMC) 의 필수 (essential) 정보들을 접할 수 있는 특별 계획들을 개발할 수 있도록 해주기 바랍니다. GAMC는 이것에 대해 제 221차 미국 장로교 총회에 보고하도록 해주기 바랍니다. 장로교 선교국(PMA)은 필수 문서들이 한국어와 스페인어로 번역될 수 있도록 하기 위해 총회 사무국(OGA)과 협력하고 있다. “필수”라는 용어가 한국부와 스페인어 부서에 각각 다른 것을 의미할 수 있다는 것을 인식한 후, PMA 직원들은 각 부서와 하루 동안 만남을 가졌다. 참가자들은 현존하는 문서들과 자료들 중 어떤 것들이 우선적으로 번역되어야 하는지를 설명해주는 지침서를 만들었고, 미래의 어떤 문서들이 번역되어야 하는지를 결정했다. 두 부서는 총회에 제출하는 개정안과, 총회 서기에 의한 성명서들과 미디어 발표들을 반드시 번역해야 하는 목록들이라는 것에 일치했다. 다른 목록들에 대해서는 두 부서가 각각 다른 의견을 보였기 때문에, 그들 각각이 결정한 목록들이 번역될 수 있을 것이다. 양쪽 참가자들은 필요가 있을 때마다 번역자들의 지속적인 자문 역할을 해주기로 동의했다.

번역 작업을 촉진시키기 위해, PMA는 두 명의 번역자를 고용했다. 스페인어를 위해 한 명, 한국어를 위해 한 명. 두 번역자들은 2013년 여름에 고용되어 문서들을 열심히 번역하고 있다. 번역자들은 PMA에 의해 고용되었지만, 이 새로운 자리와 관련된 비용은 OGA와 공동으로 분담한다.

두 개의 웹사이트(각 부서 당 하나씩)가 만들어지고 있다. 두 웹페이지는 집계 사이트로 만들어져서 번역되고 있는 각 언어로 된 자료들, 광고들, 문서들을 그곳에서 모두 볼 수 있게 해줄 것이다. 웹페이지는 2014년 봄에 완성될 예정이다.

13. *2012 Referral: Item 16-07. Report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century. Recommendation 6.a. Charge the General Assembly Mission Council, Through Its Office of Theology, Worship and Education, to Articulate a Reformed Understanding of Just Compensation Based on Our Theology of God's Providence and the Grace in Which We All Live and Serve—From the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 50, 1464 of the CD; p. 293 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* A web page will be developed by June 1, 2014 to be found at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/just-compensation](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/just-compensation) that links to a number of Presbyterian resources on the nature of compensation, economic justice, and potential practices.

14. *2012 Referral: Item 16-07. Report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century. Recommendation 7. Charge the General Assembly Mission Council ( Through Its Office of Theology, Worship and Education and Its Office of Vocation) and the Other Five Agencies of the PC(USA) to Articulate a Renewed Call for the Priesthood of All Believers, Moving Away from Models of Church That Rely on an Unhealthy Dependence on Professionalized Ministry and Ignore the Call of Believers for Mission and Ministry in Daily Life—From the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 50–51, 1465 of the CD; p. 293 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* The 211th General Assembly (2012) charged the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the other five agencies of the PC(USA) to articulate a renewed call for the Priesthood of All Believers, moving away from models of church that rely on an unhealthy dependence on professionalized ministry and ignore the call of believers for mission and ministry in daily life. This call is consistent with the description of membership and ordered ministries in our Form of Government.

Membership is “a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission.” And that members are therefore responsible to proclaim “the good news in word and deed,” work “in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,” and participate “in the governing responsibilities of the church [G-1.0304].

In addition, deacons are called, in particular, to engage in “caring for members in need, handling educational tasks, cultivating liberality in giving, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, or overseeing the buildings and property of the congregation” [G-2.0201]. Ruling elders are called, in particular, “to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships” [G-2.0301].



**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
**February 5-7, 2014**  
**Theology, Worship, and Education Ministry Area**  
**Item C.102**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency commits to continue to attend to the important roles in the church of members, deacons, and elders and to integrate this into our work. In keeping with the General Assembly mandate, we commend this charge to the other agencies and ask them to consider joining the Mission Agency in this commitment.

15. *2012 Referral: Item 18-01. On Amending The Book of Confessions to Include the Confession of Belhar. Recommendation. To Begin the Process of Amending The Book Of Confessions to Include the Confession of Belhar, as Provided in G-6.03—From the Presbytery of National Capital (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 11, 1527—30 of the CD; p. 307 of the printed copy).*

*Response:* Presbyterian Mission Agency Staff, along with staff from the Office of the General Assembly, have worked with the Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar. The report from that Special Committee will go directly to the General Assembly. A web page has been developed at [www.pcusa.org/belhar](http://www.pcusa.org/belhar).

**Theology, Worship, and Education**

**IV. Reports without Recommendations**

None