

**ITEM D.103
FOR ACTION**

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

Subject: Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Response to Referrals

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry portion of the Presbyterian Mission Board report to the 221st General Assembly (2014).

I. Referrals in Progress

None

II. Final Response to Referrals

1. *2012 Referral: Item 16-07. Report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century. Recommendation 3.c. Call on Presbyteries and the General Assembly Mission Council (Through Its Office of Vocation and Office of Evangelism and Church Growth) to Consider Alternative Ways to Resource the Development of Church Plants, Including the Funding and Sending of Local Missioners, Individual and Multiple Leader Church Plant Teams, as well as the Creation and Increase of Grant-Making Funds for the Creation of New Ministries—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 version).*

Response: Over the past six years Evangelism and Church Growth has been actively pursuing alternative means for funding the work of new church development and new worshipping communities. In partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation, and Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, we have been diligently working to convert funds originally used for brick and mortar to fund new church developments and new worshipping communities with great success. See the Presbyterian Foundation's video on this work: <http://vimeo.com/46238777>. Through the Office of Mission Program grants, we have created a new delivery system for funding new worshipping communities. See the Presbyterian News Service article -- <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2012/11/2/new-mission-program-grants-1001/>. The topic of funding and sending local missionaries is under discussion with world mission and mid-council leaders. Local congregations have been encouraged to participate in the new worshipping communities movement by sending individual and multiple leader church plant teams in collaboration with mid-councils.

2. *2012 Referral: Item 16-08. Commissioners' Resolution. On Directing the Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Area to Share Stories of Great Commission Congregations. Recommendation 2. Report to the 221st General Assembly (2014) Examples of Congregations That Have Significantly Demonstrated Their Focus on the Great Commission—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 51, 1486 of the CD; pp. 294–95 of the printed copy)*

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Response: Great Commission Churches equipping and nurturing people to follow Jesus in their communities by reaching new people and doing justice.

GREAT COMMISSION - Matthew 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

a. Light of Hope Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA:

Light of Hope Presbyterian Church is the prayerful result of three struggling churches coming together to be one church to serve their community. Each church was originally developed due to "white flight" in the Atlanta, GA area. Each of these churches experienced their neighborhoods once again radically changing. But this time, instead of leaving, they made a commitment to serve people where God had planted them. To serve their neighborhood, they decided to sell the three church properties and start from scratch. They called Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz as the pastor to lead them in this fresh start. They are using the "Engage" curriculum as a resource to help them be the church in their community and share their faith grounded in God's redeeming work in Jesus. Their ministry is taking them into the lives of people they never dreamed of reaching. Max, a homeless man in the community, has found a home in the Light of Hope Church and has experienced hope for the first time in his life. He was baptized by the church and is now a growing disciple of Christ. <http://www.lohpc.com>

b. CN Jenkins Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC:

Under the leadership of Jerry Cannon, CN Jenkins is making disciples, reaching new people, and serving others in their community. This growing, vibrant church sends out volunteers into their community and is a place in which people can not only receive spiritual nurture and care but also experience their physical needs being met through a health clinic, a clothes closet, and free haircuts. Through serving Charlotte and CN Jenkins members following Jesus into the community, this church has experienced many people making professions of faith and joining their faith community. <http://www.cnjenkins.org/home.cfm> & <http://bcove.me/94bwillwq>

c. North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA:

Scott Weimer, pastor of NAPC, states, "We are praying mightily that God will use us as a Great Commission Church. Their ratio of baptisms to deaths is 3 – 1, and in the past few years have baptized 80 mainland Chinese students, almost all "doc" and "post-doc" students. Their growth over the past three to five years is nearly 40 % multi-ethnic and multi-national. The congregation has developed three worship services, each in a different style of worship, without falling into "worship wars." Recently, they have held Dave Ramsey Financial Peace courses for middle class folks, and the church is currently offering a newly developed financial management course for the working poor. They continue to help people follow Jesus in ways that involve sharing faith in authentic ways and doing justice. <http://www.napc.org/> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoyJ9zTE5KA>

d. The Open Door, Pittsburgh, PA

The Open Door is a church planted in a community with a vision to not only reach the people in their neighborhood but to make their neighborhood a better place to live by partnering with other local ministries and through developing an Urban Farm that supports the working poor and brings people into the loving presence of Jesus. They have a vibrant worship service each week and an intentional process for faith development. There is artistic development happening all over their neighborhood. New galleries, artist's lofts, cafés, ethnic restaurants and other types of businesses are moving into the East End on a weekly basis. This activity is an indicator of a grassroots movement among 20-30 year olds and artists to move into this section of Pittsburgh. The Open Door sees the community redevelopment

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initiatives already in place as fertile ground for sharing the Gospel. They are a church with a heart to connect, partner, and develop relationships with young artists and organizations in the neighborhood. As a result, many young people are being reached and are on mission to share the love of Jesus and do Justice in their neighborhoods. At the heart of the BJ Woodworth's (pastor) vision is making disciples.

<http://pghopendoor.org>

e. Hope for Life Chapel (1001 New Worshiping Community), Los Angeles, CA:

Tamara John is the pastor of one of our 1001New Worshiping Communities. Her ministry flows directly from what God is doing in her life. As she has experienced God working in the beauty and difficulty of her life, she has felt a call to do ministry with people who have been wounded by life. Her call is lived out in an RV ministry in a park with 52 RVs, with each housing one to six people. Through worship and care, she is ministering to people often forgotten by the local church. She works with and serves people who have lost jobs, are addicted, and have been bruised by life. Tamara states, "I get to baptize people now, to bring them down into the water and to raise them up into new life in Jesus Christ. That is my hope for everyone I meet—for Jesus to make them new, with all the old gone."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8GsbvcZpMw>

f. New Hope Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA:

New Hope is growing followers of Jesus Christ who are equipped and nurtured in the body of Christ to serve people in Orange, CA. Some of them are called to go door-to-door in neighborhoods talking with people about the needs of the community and the needs in their own lives. They present the gospel as the foundation by which the church is meeting those needs. They also support music in the local schools by raising the money to provide the music program and by offering lessons to 52 students. They make an effort to meet the needs of their community by serving children in need and offering hope where there has been little hope. New Hope's pastor, Chineta Goodjoin, has a heart to see her community transformed through God's love revealed in the body of Christ.

<http://mynewhopepres.org/#/my-new-hope> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNw15CXLkHw>

III. Reports with Recommendations – Under separate cover

IV. Reports without Recommendations - None