

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
February 5-7, 2014
EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

ITEM D.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
	C. Leadership	G. Audit	
X	D. Worshiping Communities	H. Executive Committee	

Subject: 1001 New Worshiping Communities

Recommendation:

I. Report with recommendations:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board recommends that the 221st General Assembly (2014) do the following:

1. Challenge and encourage each mid-council to sponsor a training or awareness event on 1001 New Worshiping Communities in cooperation with the Evangelism and Church Growth (ECG) office.
2. Challenge and encourage each session to pray for the fulfillment of the 1001 movement by daily praying at 10:02 AM the scripture passage Luke 10:2 that asks God to send more workers into the harvest field. (“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”)
3. Recommend each presbytery to view a new 1001 video at presbytery meetings and discuss, "How can we engage in ministry outside the walls of the church in our own context?"
4. Challenge and encourage each presbytery to start at least one new worshiping community within the next two years.

Rationale:

2012 Referral: Item 16-02. Recommendation 4. Develop Workable Strategies and Collaborate with Congregations and Mid Councils on Growing New Congregations and Communities of Faith in the PC(USA)—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48–49, 1443–44 of the CD; p. 289 of the print copy).

2012 Referral: Item 16-02. Recommendation 5. Require the General Assembly Mission Council to Bring Recommendations Regarding This Movement to the 221st General Assembly (2014) and to Report to the 221st General Assembly (2014) as to Its Progress—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48–49, 1443–44 of the CD; p. 289 of the print copy).

The 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement has the potential to make new disciples and revitalize the whole of the church; this has become one of the key directional goals of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The strategies for accomplishing the goal are outlined below and the progress to date is summarized. The recommendations summarized above will enhance the denomination's commitment to the initiative and widen the base of participation. The 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement is a grassroots movement that is best implemented on a regional basis. Therefore, widespread understanding of and commitment to the movement is desirable. Local commitment can be cultivated if each presbytery and synod participates in planning an event tailored to its specific regional culture. New worshiping communities are local and contextual. They will differ in style and strategy depending on the location. They are best planned, nurtured, and sustained at a local level. Starting something brand new has the potential to transform the entire body of Christ, including traditional congregations and councils. The possibility for transformation multiplies to the extent that it reaches each corner of the denomination. The goal is for every presbytery to experience firsthand the impact of new growth and missional ministry.

Strategies:

- Communicate the vision through producing videos and writing stories about innovative, creative communities
- Employ a variety of communication tools such as Facebook, website, Twitter, newsletters, and YouTube to cast the vision
- Recruit potential leaders for New Worshiping Communities (NWC) through visits to seminaries, presbyteries, conferences, colleges, and gatherings, meeting with potential leaders, helping them to discern a call to NWC leadership
- Support NWC leaders with training, coaching, internships, and assessments through Presbyterian Centers for New Church Innovation.
- Continue to add regional Centers for New Church Innovation until there are 6 regional Centers with national impact (currently 2 are fully functional and another 2 are in formative stages)
- Resource Mid-Councils by visiting presbytery and synod meetings and presenting workshops at national conferences such as Big Tent, Triennium, New Wilmington Mission Conference, Wee Kirk, and Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant conferences.
- Present "Get in the Game" (vision casting) events at presbyteries, seminaries, conferences, and other gatherings.
- Provide resources such as *Starting New Worshiping Communities* to help leadership teams get started with solid theological and strategic foundations.
- Provide training and assessment for leaders
- Provide some financial support for NWCs through Mission Development Resource Committee grants
- Train prospective NWC leaders through offering internships for college and seminary students

The initiative was launched during General Assembly 2012 and as of December, 2013 the following milestones have been reached:

- Number of New Worshiping Communities launched to date: 173
- Presbyteries with at least one new worshiping community: 89
- Seed Grants given by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to encourage innovation: 73
- Investment Grants awarded to sustain significant progress: 7
- Health Insurance grants provided: 8
- Seminary students who have completed NWC internships: 11
- Potential NWC leaders who have completed Discerning Missional Leadership assessments: 60

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD

February 5-7, 2014

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

Item D.102

- Percentage of new worshiping communities that are Racial Ethnic or New Immigrant predominantly: over 50
 - Percentage of new worshiping communities which serve primarily young adults (age 18-30): 25
 - People who "like" 1001 new worshiping communities on Facebook: 1341
 - Professionally produced videos which provide excellent examples of new worshiping communities: 18
-
- Video contest launched to encourage new worshiping communities to tell their own stories
 - Centers for New Church Innovation support and resource new worshiping communities: two centers are active, and three more expected to launch in 2014
 - People who have participated in Starting New Worshiping Communities workshops: 100
 - Presbyteries that have sponsored a Get in the Game event to communicate the vision for starting new worshiping communities: 58

Financial Implications Cover Sheet for Reports to the General Assembly

Name of Agency Submitting Report: Evangelism **Program:** 1001 **Date:** 1-6-2014

Contact Person: Philip Lotspeich/Vera White **Telephone#:** 502-243-5729 502-262-1631

This RGA cover sheet must be submitted with each Report to the General Assembly. Even if the report does not contain financial implications, the cover sheet must be attached stating that there are no financial implications. Any report received without the financial implications sheet will be returned. **If you have any questions about the form, please contact the Financial Implications Team: Chris Nicholas at 502-569-5411 for per capita, and Andrea McNicol at 502-569-5555 or Denise Hampton at 502-569-5575 for mission budget related financial implications.**

Name of Report: Growing New Congregations and Communities of Faith in the PC(USA)

1. Does this report include recommendations that have financial implications? YES or **NO**

2. If YES: (Attach extra sheets, if necessary)
 - a. Identify the area of the reports which have financial implications.
 - b. Define the components of the financial implications (basis for computation only).
(For new committees/taskforces- please limit as far as possible to two face to face meetings, plus two virtual meetings & conference calls – from GA to next GA)
 - c. Identify the proposed source of funding, and the year it will impact (2014/ 2015/2016):
 - (1) Per Capita: OGA____ Presbyterian Mission Agency ____
 - (2) Presbyterian Mission Agency:
 - (a) Unrestricted or Restricted (Circle one)
 - (b) Restricted Source _____

3. If there are financial implications, are these being absorbed in the current year budget? YES or NO
If YES, what is the source of funding: _____

4. Have these financial implications received approval from the following sources?
_____ OGA/Presbyterian Mission Agency (Circle one)
_____ Presbyterian Mission Agency Program: (Theology, Worship & Education, Evangelism & Church Growth, Compassion, Peace & Justice, World Mission, Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministry/PW, Communications & Funds Development) (Circle one)
_____ Other Entities (BOP, Foundation, PILP, PPC, CFD, SS) (Circle one)
_____ Advisory/Advocacy Committees (ACSWP, ACEIR, ACREC, ACWC, Other _____)

5. If the action proposed in report involves another ministry area to do something, has this been discussed with the areas concerned? YES/**NO**. (If Yes, give names)