

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
February 5-7, 2014
Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW Ministry Area

ITEM D.105
FOR ACTION

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

Subject: Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/PW Referrals to the 221st GA (2014)

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW portion of the Presbyterian Assembly Mission Agency report to the 221st General Assembly (2014).

Background:

I. Referrals in Progress

None.

II. Final Responses to Referrals

1. *2012 Referral: Item 10-17. Hispanic/Latino-a Leadership Conversation Group Report. Recommendation D.1. Direct the Office of Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support and the Office of Resources and Relationships with Hispanic/Latino-a Constituencies to Convene a Group of People (Young Adults and Adults) to Serve as a Mentoring Network for Youth and Young Adults—From the Hispanic/Latino-a Leadership Conversation Group Report (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 76, 860 of the CD; p. 232 of the printed copy).*

Response: The Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area, specifically the Office of Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support, in collaboration with the Office of Resources and Relationships in the Theology, Worship and Education ministry area, created the Hispanic/Latino Youth and Young Adult network, which held its inaugural meeting on July 31, 2013. The network held two training events, one in July 2013, and one in November 2013. The network has empowered its youth and young adult participants to lead the group and to mentor other youth and young adults.

2. *2012 Referral: Item 10-17. Hispanic/Latino-a Leadership Conversation Group Report. Recommendation E. Direct the Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support Office to Effectively Implement the PC(USA) Hispanic National Strategy into a Strategic Plan That Will Provide Guidance to Hispanic/Latino-a Communities and Groups for Partnering with the General Assembly, Mid Councils, and PCUSA) Seminaries in Addressing These Matters and Report to the 221st General Assembly (2014)—From the Hispanic/Latino-a Leadership Conversation Group Report (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 76, 861 of the CD; p. 233 of the printed copy).*

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Response: Representatives from the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns, the National Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian Caucus, Hispanic/Latino-a organization moderators, clergy, church members, theological seminaries, and mid council representatives held a National Hispanic/Latino-a consultation on October 30 - November 1, 2012, in Louisville, KY, for the purpose of creating and coordinating a strategic plan that could provide direction and guidance for an effective implementation of the *Strategy for Ministry With the Hispanic-Latino Constituencies in the Presbyterian Church*, approved by the 215th General Assembly (2003). A draft of an action plan was created at this consultation. On January 20-21, 2014, a core group of those who participated in the consultation met to finalize the strategic plan and to put into place steps to help with its implementation.

Representatives from Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries and Theology, Worship and Education also discussed the National Hispanic Strategy at the Fall Polity Conference in November 2012, and copies of the Hispanic National Strategy and the implementation manual were sent to Hispanic/Latino-a Presbyterian pastors, churches, regional caucuses, Latina women's groups, and Latino men's groups, with a request to hold training events on the strategy. A copy of the strategy report is available for online download in English and Spanish at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/hispanic/hispanic-resources>. A Hispanic strategy presentation was also held in Orlando at the Hispanic Latin Presbyterian Women "Encuentro" gathering and at the Continuing Education Seminar for Hispanic/Latino-a pastors, the tri-annual National Hispanic/Latino-a Presbyterian Caucus assembly, the bi-annual assembly of the Synod of Puerto Rico, the Presbyterian Mission Agency board (at its February 2013 and April 2013 meetings), and at mid councils across the church.

3. *2012 Referral: Item 10-20. A Resolution to Recommit to Celebrating the Decade of Hearing and Singing New Songs to God. Recommendation 4. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council to Include the Joint Working Group in the Planning of Future Women of Color Consultations—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 75, 871—73 of the CD; p. 235 of the printed copy).*

Response: The Joint Working Group planned the Women of Color Consultation, which was held October 11-13, 2013, in Louisville, KY, and entitled "*Measure for Measure: Assessing the Effectiveness of 'Hearing and Singing New Songs to God.'*" The Joint Working Group approved the keynote presenters and provided the framework for the four themes of the consultation ("intersectionality," "the Church as a system of privilege and discrimination," "commitment to inclusivity with justice," and "making visible the leadership of women of color") from the Women of Color Consultation Task Force Report, *Hearing and Singing New Songs to God: Shunning Old Discords and Singing New Harmonies*, approved by the 218th General Assembly (2008). A member of the Joint Working Group also attended the consultation as a participant.

4. *2012 Referral: Item 10-20. A Resolution to Recommit to Celebrating the Decade of Hearing and Singing New Songs to God. Recommendation 5. Direct General Assembly Mission Council to Lift Up the Decade of Hearing and Singing New Songs to God in Its Web-Based and Print Publications Periodically Throughout the Decade—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 61, 75, 871—73 of the CD; p. 235 of the printed copy).*

Response: Presbyterian News Service has published various News & Announcements items on the web on Celebrating a Decade of Hearing and Singing New Songs to God, and it has also been posted on websites in the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area. The decade has also been lifted up in print publications, including *Presbyterians Today*, the *Racial Ethnic Torch* and in the *Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study*.

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5. *2012 Referral: Item 11-12. A Resolution to Continue the Work of Deborah's Daughters. Recommendation 1. Direct That the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women Ministry Area of the General Assembly Mission Council Continue Its Work with the Program, Deborah's Daughters, for the Next Two Years and Report to the 221st General Assembly (2014) —From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 32–33, 1085–88 of the CD; p. 249 of the printed copy).*

Response: Deborah's Daughters Women's Listening Visits were held in 2013. A listening visit with women seminarians was held at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in February, 2013, and with young women participants at the Big Tent in August 2013. In April 2013, the Associate for Gender and Racial Justice in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women consulted with Research Services and developed a survey instrument to capture data for Deborah's Daughters clergywomen listening visits throughout the church. This survey instrument was completed in the fall of 2013, and a Deborah's Daughters visit was subsequently held in the Presbytery of Boston in November 2013. Deborah's Daughters listening visits are planned for 2014 and 2015.

6. *2012 Referral: Item 11-15. A Resolution to Encourage Participation in the Words Matter Project. Recommendation 2. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council to Include the Words Matter Project on Its Website's Carousel of Rotating Features for One Week Each Quarter, Beginning September 2012, and Continuing Through June 2014—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 33, 1089–90 of the CD; p. 250 of the printed copy).*

Response: Devotions from the Words Matters project were posted on the AllWomen in the Church Website in 2012 and 2013. The Word Matters project was also featured on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s website carousel of rotating features. The National Council of Churches Justice for Women Working Group ceased meeting in 2013, and a restructuring occurred at the National Council of Churches, which eliminated the program area responsible for the Words Matters project. The Words Matter project ended and has not had active updates since the fall of 2012. The value of the project, since the fall of 2012, resides solely as an archival resource.

7. *2012 Referral: Item 11-15. A Resolution to Encourage Participation in the Words Matter Project. Recommendation 3. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council, in Cooperation with the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC), to Develop and Distribute a Bulletin Insert Promoting the Words Matter Project—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 33, 1089–90 of the CD; p. 250 of the printed copy).*

Response: A bulletin insert promoting the Words Matter project was posted on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s website as a resource available for download for Advent preparation. The Words Matter project has not had active updates since the fall of 2012. The value of the project, since the fall of 2012, resides solely as an archival resource.

8. *2012 Referral: Item 11-15. A Resolution to Encourage Participation in the Words Matter Project. Recommendation 4. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council to Provide Support to the National Council of Churches' Justice for Women Working Group for Phase 2 of the Words Matter Project in the Amount of \$4,000—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 33, 1089–90 of the CD; p. 250 of the printed copy).*

Response: Financial support in the amount of \$4,000 was provided to the National Council of Churches by the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The National Council of Churches Justice for Women Working Group ceased meeting in 2013, and a restructuring occurred at the NCC, which eliminated the program area responsible for the

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Words Matters project. The Words Matter project ended and has not had active online updates since the fall of 2012.

9. *2012 Referral: Item 16-03. African American Church Growth Strategy Task Force Report. Recommendation 1. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) to hold a national consultation of representatives from the GAMC, African American Leaders with Experience in Evangelism and Church Growth, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC), and Mid Councils to Be Held in 2013, in Order to Develop Strategies and Collaborate on Growing New and Existing African American Congregations and Communities of Faith in the PC(USA)—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 49, 1444–49 of the CD; p. 290 of the print copy).*

Response: An African American Church Growth Consultation was held in Louisville, KY, on May 23-25, 2013. Forty participants including mid council executives, leaders from the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC), African American leaders with experience in evangelism and church growth, and staff from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly met to review the African American Church Growth Strategy and collaborate on growing new African American worshiping communities and transforming existing congregations.

10. *2012 Referral: Item 16-03. African American Church Growth Strategy Task Force Report. Recommendation 2. Direct the GAMC, Specifically Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/PW and the Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Areas, to Train and Deploy Five Regional Coaches to Collaborate with Mid Councils and Congregations to Implement the African American Church Growth Strategy—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 49, 1444–49 of the CD; p. 290 of the print copy).*

Response: The Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area, specifically the Office of African American Congregational Support, provided training for African American church growth coaches in coordination with the Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area in May 2013. An additional training was held October 28-30, 2013. The coaches will be deployed to five regions and will collaborate with mid councils and congregations to analyze needs, access the potential for mission and ministry, and work toward African American church growth.

III. Reports with Recommendations (submitted under separate cover)

IV. Reports without Recommendations (None)