

**ITEM B.103
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: Amendment of Prior Action and Revision to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Manual of Operations Governing PDA Initial Funding Grants to Mid Councils and their Churches Impacted by Disaster

Recommendation:

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Advisory Committee, voted on March 12, 2015 at its stated meeting to that the Justice Committee recommend to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board the following amendments to an action of the General Assembly Mission Council from May, 2012 and reflect such changes in the PDA Manual of Operations:

1. The amount allocated by PDA to Mid Councils for Initial Response Grants for immediate needs in the community following a disaster will ordinarily be up to \$7,500.
2. The amount allocated by PDA to Mid Councils for Church Damage Assistance Grants following a disaster that puts the ministry of the particular church at risk will ordinarily be \$5,000 with no more than \$25,000 ordinarily being allocated to a Mid Council in a calendar year.
3. Exceptions to this policy will be made with the support of the PDA Advisory Committee, which shall generally be secured by conference call. Exceptions to these amounts will be reported to the Justice Committee and the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board at their next stated meeting.

Background:

In April 2012, the GAMC approved, at the request of the Justice Committee and the Advisory Committee of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a change in funding amounts for presbyteries and their congregations following a disaster. While earlier drafts of this recommendation included an "extraordinary circumstance" clause to permit PDA to make exceptions to this limit, according to its mandate, when dire circumstance necessitated, that more permissive language was never presented to the Justice Committee nor to the PMA. The absence of such language requires any exception to these limits to be approved by an action of the PMA Board. Such a narrow structural interpretation of PDA/PMA policies, without appropriate latitude for extraordinary circumstance, limits the ability of the PMA to respond in a timely and effective manner according to its mandate through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
April 15-17, 2015
Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Area

The original language adopted in May of 2012 was:

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Advisory Committee recommends that the Justice Mission Committee approve the following recommendations:

1. That PDA reduce the amount allocated to mid-councils for Initial Response Grants for immediate needs to a disaster from \$10,000 to up to \$7500;
2. That PDA reduce the amount allocated for Church Assistance Grants from \$10,000 to \$5000 with no more than \$25,000 being allocated to a mid-council per calendar year