

ITEM D.204
FOR INFORMATION

MIDDLE EASTERN MINISTRIES

The PC(USA) seeks to be responsive to the needs of Middle Eastern Presbyterians, many of whom have immigrated to the United States. Middle Eastern Presbyterians have been a part of the Presbyterian Church for more than one century.

In February 2013, the Rev. Magdy Girgis joined Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries as part-time field staff for Middle Eastern Ministries. Middle Eastern Ministries works in partnership with congregations and mid councils to assist in the development and growth of new Middle Eastern worshiping communities and their leaders. Middle Eastern Ministries supports existing Middle Eastern worshiping communities, equips them for effective ministry and works with the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus to coordinate leadership training events. In addition, Middle Eastern Ministries supports Middle Eastern Presbyterians as they witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, identify social justice inequalities and act as a bridge for dialogue, promoting educational and cultural understanding of Middle Eastern issues.

In 2013 Middle Eastern Ministries partnered with mid councils in the development of ten new worshiping communities, which are primarily Egyptian, Iraqi, and Syrian. These new worshiping communities are located from the East Coast: Detroit, MI; Omaha, NE; Kansas City, KS; King of Prussia, PA to the Southwest: Houston, TX to the West Coast: Palmdale, Corona, Temecula and Murrieta, CA. In 2014 the Middle Eastern Ministries Office set a goal to ignite the movement to start five new worship communities, which included those in Queens, NY; Jersey City, NJ; and the San Francisco Bay Area.

There are more than 60 Presbyterian congregations and fellowships throughout the U.S., who worship in different languages, including Persia, Assyria, Armenia and Arabic. Middle Eastern Ministries inspires, equips and connects 6 churches, 20 new worshiping communities and 2 Bible Studies along with approximately 40 pastors from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran who speak these four languages: Arabic, Farsi, Armenian, and Chaldeans.

Middle Eastern Ministries provides the following services:

- Partnering with mid councils, Middle Eastern churches, and other congregations to develop Middle Eastern new worshiping communities
- Design and provide leadership development programs for Middle Eastern pastors to minister to new worshiping communities and lay leaders for the second generation.
- Actively support Middle Eastern leaders, young adults, and women to be connected with local churches through evangelism and social justice
- Help churches provide training for new immigrants as they become acclimated to a new environment
- Help churches to minister to their second generations through training and development and connect first and second generation parishioners
- Provide children-specific ministry to maintain the original languages, learn Biblical truth and adapt to a new culture
- Assist the Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus in connecting Middle Easterners in the U.S.A. and encourage them to be the Middle Eastern voice for peace and justice in the PC(USA) and to advocate for Middle Eastern issues
- Identify and distribute Middle Eastern specific resources to assist in the formation and development of existing congregations and new worshiping communities.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
April 15-17, 2015
Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries Ministry Area

Magdy Girgis resides with his family in Los Angeles, California. In addition to serving as Middle Eastern field staff, he is a board-certified chaplain at Vitas Hospice Care.