

ITEM D.205
FOR INFORMATION

PORTUGUESE-LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

The field staff for Portuguese-language Congregational Support serves in the Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support Office in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries. This ministry seeks to ignite a movement to grow and develop new Portuguese-language worshiping communities. The Rev. Almir Dias has served as part-time field staff since 2013. While one of the central focuses of this ministry is evangelism and church growth, the office equips and resources existing Portuguese-language worshiping communities and assists mid councils in developing new worshiping communities. Almir also provides transformational leadership training at regional and national church events.

Portuguese-language Congregational Support helped make it possible for the *Book of Order* and some of the PC(USA)'s confessions to be translated into Portuguese. In addition, staff have developed a devotional resource and two Facebook pages: one for Portuguese-language pastors and one for Portuguese-language leaders.

As field staff for Portuguese-language Congregational Support, Almir equips leaders of worshiping communities for ministry providing training in the following areas: leadership development, young adult ministry, visioning and church growth. This ministry also helps individuals to start new worshiping communities.

Staff in Portuguese-language Congregational Support are collaborating with the Presbytery of Tropical Florida in developing a Portuguese-language new worshiping community in Miami, Florida. The office is engaged in similar efforts in Baltimore and Newark presbyteries.

In 2015, Almir will join other members of the Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Congregational Support staff in providing training for racial ethnic and new immigrant individuals called to serve as coaches for leaders of new worshiping communities.

Almir Dias is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of National Capital Presbytery. In addition to serving as field staff for Portuguese-language Congregational Support, he serves as Pastor of Brazilian Presbyterian Bible Church in Germantown, Maryland.