

**ITEM B.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
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation		P. Plenary
	C. Leadership		G. Audit		
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee		

**Subject:**           **Addition to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Manual of Operation, from the PDA Advisory Committee**

**Recommendation:**

**The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Advisory Committee recommends that the PMA Board approve the following addition to the PDA Manual of Operations:**

**An important element of PDA national response protocols involves PDA National Response Team members and/or staff offering ministry of presence by worshiping with affected congregations the first Sunday following a disaster.**

**On occasion, a disaster occurs at such a time that Teaching Elders are required to be part of the response. When Teaching Elders who belong to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Volunteer/Response Team (NRT), are needed to deploy at a time that would require them not being able to fulfill their pulpit obligations at their home church, PDA will, if requested, reimburse the NRT member's church for pulpit supply expenses (honorarium for substitute preacher) up to an amount defined in that church's presbytery policy. If there is no presbytery policy in place to cover such honoraria, PDA will reimburse up to \$200.00 upon request of the church.**

**Background:**

The addition of this language to PDA and PMA practices is meant to clarify PDA practice with the PDA National Response Team, and guide reimbursement practices for NRT deployments that involve a Sunday out of the pulpit for an NRT volunteer who is a preaching pastor.

In rare circumstances, PDA has been providing reimbursement to a congregation who has released their pastor for volunteer service on a Sunday in which he/she was scheduled to preach. Some congregations, mostly smaller and single pastor congregations, already give sacrificially to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by donating four weeks of their pastor's professional time to volunteer as part of PDA's national response. For some of these congregations, paying for extra pulpit supply on an emergency basis is a burden on already strained budgets. During the past 15 years of the National Response Team's service, such pulpit reimbursements have been authorized on a case by case basis. These amounts have varied from \$75.00 to \$200.00. The proposed addition is meant to clarify reimbursement policies in accordance with presbytery standards.

The funding for these requests comes from generally restricted funds – it is a part of the National Response Team budget line – a customary and normal expense for this team.