

**ITEM C.102
FOR ACTION**

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

Subject: Charles H. Cook Foundation

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board reconsider its vote and reverse its action to discontinue base grants from the Christmas Joy Offering to the Charles H. Cook Foundation.

Background:

At its April 2015 meeting, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board voted to:

- a. Discontinue base grants from the Christmas Joy Offering to Cook Native American Ministries (now The Charles H. Cook Foundation), with thanksgiving for its many years of dedicated educational ministry, as the campus has been sold, and Cook has transitioned from a racial ethnic school to a foundation; and that Cook receive its final disbursement on August 21, 2015.
- b. That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board direct its Finance Committee to facilitate conversation between representatives from the Charles H. Cook Foundation, the Presbyterian Foundation, and Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries staff to explore additional funding for Cook Foundation's operations for a limited period of time.

The Charles H. Cook Foundation requests that the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board reconsider its action and reverse its decision to discontinue base grants from the Christmas Joy Offering to Cook Foundation. The issue according to the Charles H. Cook Foundation is not that the Cook Foundation has ceased being a college, but that its mission is still educational, specifically, the development of Native American leaders.

The view of the Cook Foundation is that it has met the Christmas Joy Offering Institutional Standards as an unaccredited institution, as it has operated with an alternate educational model. According to D.2. of the Christmas Joy Offering Institutional Standards, "non-degree granting institutions must have an alternative educational model that is consistent with their mission to educate racial ethnic students and has been approved by the Presbyterian Mission Agency in lieu of accreditation.

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The Cook Foundation has stated that it continues to follow its mission using an alternate educational model to provide educational mission to Native American Leaders.

Attached is a letter received by the Presbyterian Mission Agency from the Charles H. Cook Foundation, including a "List of Fallouts." Also see a letter from Lindsey Gilbert, president of Menaul School and chairperson of the Presidents' Roundtable.



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May 27, 2015

Ms. Linda B. Valentine, Executive Director
Presbyterian Mission Agency
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Ms. Valentine,

Cook Native American Ministries Foundation (CNAMF) takes this opportunity to hereby submit its letter of appeal to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB). Our appeal is in response to the PMAB approval of a recommendation to discontinue base grants from the Christmas Joy Offering to Cook Native American Ministries Foundation.

Please note that CNAMF received official notice of the recommendation only one day prior to travel for the PMAB during April 15-17, 2015. This poorly handled process did not provide CNAMF an opportunity, whatsoever, to meet with staff of the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, Leadership Committee officers, or Presbyterian Foundation in consultation and/or explore any options.

It was verbally reported to the Leadership Committee on April 16th, that the transition from an educational institution to a foundation requires a sizable amount of time to gain financial stability. CNAMF has stated in previous meetings that it takes a minimum of 36-months from the time of establishing its endowment to producing stable earnings. Ironically, in 2007, GAMC utilized a similar investment growth strategy regarding the Mary Holmes property sale. CNAMF was not extended this same opportunity.

In September 2014, Dr. Rev. Ron Lundeen and Mr. Gary Metoxen who as CNAMF Board of Directors members addressed the PMAB on the CJO and received an implicit assurance of support during Cook's transition. The discontinuance of CJO, within four months of its decision, has the stark resemblance of broken promises to Native Americans. We ask the PMAB to reconsider its decision which appears as being unfaithful at our eleventh-hour.

An area that was overlooked is the period of time that CNAMF requires for capacity building as a newly-formed foundation, including; Establishing and reinforcing partnerships within the business community, time necessary to develop and submit funding requests, strengthening organizational management, and updating of information technology hardware and software.

Please find enclosed our list of fallouts that will conceivably occur as a result of the decision to discontinue CJO funding to CNAMF.

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Attachment 1

Our appeal is to rescind the decision of the PMAB and reinstate the base grants from the CJO to Cook Native American Ministries Foundation based upon the grounds that a "Non-degree granting institute must have an alternative educational model that is consistent with their mission to educate racial ethnic students and has been approved by Presbyterian Mission Agency in lieu of accreditation." The issue is not that Cook ceased being a college, but that its mission is still education, specifically, the development of Native American leaders.

In closing, I feel it is very important to point out that as a result of PMAB action as described herein, PC(USA) is moving away from its adopted Churchwide Policy Statement which clearly states, "The PC(USA) must accept the challenge of recruiting Native Americans and giving them as much training as may be necessary, based upon their defining specific ordination and educational standards for Native American that are acceptable within PC(USA) polity and compatible with need of Native American congregations."

Sincerely,

Gary Metoxen, Chair
Board of Directors

Cc: Tom Taylor	Rev. Irv Porter
Tim Clark	Rev. Larry Norris
Dr. Rev. Ron Lundeen	Rev. Cecil Corbett
Bryce Wiebe	Lindsey Gilbert
Rhashell Hunter	James Matthews
Marilyn S. Gamm	CNAMF Board of Directors
Kevin Yoho	Isaac Curley

Attachment: List of Fallouts

List of Fallouts

Resulting from the Discontinuance of Christmas Joy Offering

- The relationship that was established more than 350+ years ago between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Native American ministries; and 100+ years with CNAMF upon the Presbyterian Church sending Rev. Charles H. Cook in 1870 to the Gila River Indian reservation is jeopardized as our mutually beneficial partnership draws to a close;
- The financial relationship that was augmented by CNAMF establishing of an \$8.5M endowment is clearly in jeopardy as CNAMF elected to invest with the Presbyterian Foundation over several other financial institution with some offering stronger returns;
- The Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) will be impacted as it is in the process of being transferred to the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, however may come to a rapid close in fall 2015 as CJO funds largely supported this project that is in Year Two of a three-year cycle;
- Cook Native American Ministries, as the only institution in the nation that successfully teaches, trains and certifies church elders, is hard pressed to continue its Commissioned Ruling Elders program and thereby must deny tribal communities these highly sought after deacons and elders.

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Attachment 2



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June 15, 2015

Linda Valentine
Presbyterian Mission Agency
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Ms. Linda Valentine,

This letter is in support of Cook Native Ministries Foundation (CNAMF) appeal to the PMBA approval of a recommendation to discontinue base grants and defacto participation in the President's Roundtable. I write this letter with the approval and support of the other Roundtable Presidents, of the historically Racial Presbyterian Ethnic Schools.

I assert that this decision is poorly thought out and should be immediately changed for the following reasons:

1. The President's Roundtable (PRT) is charged with making decisions in regards to membership, especially in regards to evaluating an institution's educational mission. We have the history and academic expertise to evaluate an "alternative educational model." PRT is the best group to evaluate educational mission and visibility, and we were not consulted.
2. The PMAB's decision before hearing CNAMF's report is rash, unpresbyterian and not respectful of CNAMF's significant history of ministry or their relationship with the church.
3. We need to have an orderly, agreed upon transition period and meeting with notice and representation. In the last few years, the PRT has found increasing transparency in working with the national office, this decision and process is a big step backwards.
4. We do believe that the CNAMF will be able to stand on its own financially and potentially support many excellent Native American projects. In order to ensure excellent relationships and mutually supportive ministries we should be working in symphony with Cook, not in disharmony.

I urge you to take our request to the PMAB at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully in Christ,

Lindsey R. Gilbert, Jr. President, Menaul
SchoolChair of President's Roundtable