

ITEM D.102 FOR ACTION

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

Subject: 2017 Programmatic Emphases and Liturgical Dates

Recommendation: That the Worshiping Communities Committee approve the following list of Special Days and Programmatic Emphases for 2017. These days will be listed in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and other materials. New requests for 2017 are marked with an asterisk.

Dates	Programmatic Emphases or Liturgical Designation	Baptism	Eucharist
January 6	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> (Friday)		X
January 8	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	X	X
January 11	Human Trafficking Awareness Day (Wednesday)		
January 15*	Race Relations Day/Speak Antiracism ¹		
January 18	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (Wednesday)		
January 22	Criminal Justice		
February 5	Souper Bowl of Caring; Chaplains Sunday		
February 12	Health Awareness and Day of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness; Camp and Conference Ministries		
February 19	Universal Day of Prayer for Students		
February 26	<i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	X	X
March 1	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		X
March 3	World Day of Prayer (Friday)		
March 5	<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> ; Celebrate the Gifts of Women		
March 8	International Women's Day (Wednesday)		
March 12	<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>		
March 19	<i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>		
March 26	<i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>		
April 2*	<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> ; Self-Development of People; Justice Advocacy ³		
April 9	<i>Passion/Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)</i>		X
April 10	<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>		
April 11	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>		
April 12	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>		
April 13	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>		X
April 14	<i>Good Friday</i>		
April 15	<i>Great Vigil of Easter</i>	X	X
April 16	<i>Resurrection of the Lord / Easter</i> ; One Great Hour of Sharing	X	X
April 17	International Day of Farmers' Struggles		
April 22	Earth Day (Saturday)		
April 24	Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (Monday)		
April 27	Holocaust Remembrance Day (Thursday)		
May 4	National Day of Prayer		

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
September 24-25, 2015
Communications Ministry

May 5	May Friendship Day (Friday)		
May 7	Older Adult Week begins; Wills Emphasis		X
May 13	Fair Trade (Saturday)		
May 14	Mother's Day		X
May 21	Presbyterian Heritage		
May 25	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i> (Thursday)		X
May 28	Disability Inclusion		
June 3*	1001 New Worshiping Communities ⁵		
June 4	<i>Day of Pentecost</i> ; Pentecost Offering	X	X
June 11*	<i>Trinity Sunday</i> ; Intercultural Church Sunday ⁶	X	X
June 18	Father's Day; Presbyterian Men		
June 25	Active Life		
July 2	Immigration Sunday		
July 16	Smaller Membership Church		
July 23	Metropolitan/Urban Ministry		
August 6	Hiroshima Day (Sunday)		
August 13*	College and Young Adult Sunday ⁷		
August 20	Youth in the Church and World		
August 27	Public Education		
September 3*	Season of Peace begins; Presbyterian Higher Education ²		
September 4	Labor Day; A Social Creed for the 21st Century (Monday)		
September 10	Christian Education Week begins; Christian Education Celebration		
September 17	Theological Education / Seminaries		
September 21	Global Week of Action against Gun Violence begins; International Day of Peace (Thursday)		
September 22	Native American Day		
September 24	Evangelism Sunday; Gifts of New Immigrants		
October 1	World Communion Sunday; Peace and Global Witness Offering		X
October 8	Domestic Violence Awareness		
October 16	World Food Day (Monday)		
October 22	Children's Sabbath; Educate a Child, Transform the World		
October 24	United Nations Day (Tuesday)		
October 29	Reformation Sunday		
November 1	<i>All Saints' Day</i> (Wednesday)		X
November 3	World Community Day (Friday)		
November 5	Christian and Citizen		
November 7	Election Day		
November 12	Caregiver Sunday		
November 19*	Hunger and Homelessness ^{4,8}		
November 23	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)		
November 26	<i>Christ the King / Reign of Christ</i>	X	X
December 1	World AIDS Day; Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness (Friday)		
December 3	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>		
December 10	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> ; Human Rights Day		
December 17	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>		
December 24	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> ; <i>Christmas Eve</i> (Sunday); Christmas Joy Offering		X
December 25	<i>Nativity of Jesus Christ / Christmas Day</i> (Monday)		X

Background: The following guidelines were approved at the September 2005 meeting of the General Assembly Mission Council (now Presbyterian Mission Agency Board).

Guidelines for programmatic emphases: the Presbyterian Planning Calendar

The life and worship of the local church finds their rhythm in the seasons of the church year as they reflect the life of the Lord and relate to our faith narrative found in Scripture. At the same time, the people of God do not live in isolation. The context of Christian ministry and worship is the world in which we live. The faith community proclaims that God is sovereign over all creation, acts in history, is revealed in Scripture, and is at work in our world today. Each congregation has the responsibility through its session to respond to the work of God's Spirit in the life of the community, presbytery, and region. Our sense of Christian vocation leads us in a variety of responses through mission service and spiritual formation. Programmatic emphases are those opportunities for churchwide participation and focus on the whole church's mission together.

The following criteria reflect the theological and liturgical grounding in which our programmatic emphases are rooted.

1. Approved emphases will demonstrate a commitment to the liturgical calendar, the lectionary, and the programmatic needs of the denomination.
2. The church's liturgical calendar—with particular attention to Advent and Christmas, the Season of Lent and Easter Sunday, as well as historic feasts of Epiphany, the Transfiguration, the Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and the Festival of Christ the King—provides a historical and theological framework for shaping the rhythm and life of our church.
3. Ecumenically shared emphases will receive primary consideration.
4. The Mission Work Plan of the Presbyterian Mission Agency provides a framework for understanding churchwide mission. In order to give substance and meaning to these designated observances, programmatic emphases should relate to and be supported by the Mission Work Plan.
5. In order to be fair to all Presbyterian Mission Agency programs, requests will be reviewed for overlap and redundancy. Each program team will normally have no more than one programmatic emphasis and is responsible for providing interpretive resources.
6. Since the church in God's world must be cognizant of its relationship with other world religions and the culture in which it exists, major Jewish, Islamic, and secular holidays also will be included.

Notes: Invitations, forms, and guidelines were sent to all ministry area directors and coordinators, leaders of the six agencies, and leaders of covenant networks, who were asked to provide a rationale and explanatory comments if they had requests for continuing existing special days or were seeking to add new special days.

New Requests

¹ **Race Relations Day/Speak Antiracism.** Request from Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries. Race Relations Day is the Sunday immediately preceding the MLK, Jr. Holiday and Speak Antiracism is a PC(USA) churchwide movement to recommit Presbyterians to racial justice and the faithful proclamation that the lives of people of color matter.

² **Presbyterian Higher Education.** Request from Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities. This date coincides with the beginning of many school years, a time typically aligned with teachings about the value of education. This would be an opportunity to celebrate the 59 institutions of higher education that are associated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Change of Date Request

³ **Justice Advocacy.** Request from the Office of Public Witness of Compassion, Peace, and Justice to change the date to the fifth Sunday of Lent. This is the chosen date to emphasize the scriptural correlation between the Old Testament prophets and Jesus' role as a justice advocate.

⁴**Hunger and Homelessness Sunday** Request from Presbyterian Hunger Program of Compassion, Peace, and Justice to change date to November 19. National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week precedes Thanksgiving in November. To support the many congregations who are involved in response to homelessness, we would like to lift this up during the designated week.

Name Change Requests

⁵**1001 New Worshiping Communities** Request from Theology, Formation, and Evangelism to include “new” in the name to more specifically reflect this emphasis.

⁶**Intercultural Church.** Request from Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries to eliminate cross-cultural from Cross-Cultural/Intercultural. June 11 is the Sunday after Pentecost. Pentecost marks the beginning of the church as an intercultural community of faith whose members praise God in many languages.

⁷**College and Young Adult Sunday** Request from Collegiate & Young Adult Ministries to change Collegiate Ministries to College and Young Adult Sunday to remind congregations about those who are returning to college and to further the link between college and young adult years.

⁸**Hunger and Homelessness Sunday** Request from Presbyterian Hunger Program of Compassion, Peace, and Justice to change name from Homelessness / Affordable Housing to reflect more closely the actual National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week.