

**ITEM B.201**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**  
**7/29/15**

Participants: Committee Members: Stephanie Fritts, Zandra Maffett, Sally Campbell Evans, Kathy Morriss, Kathy Fay Lee, & John Buchanan.

PDA Staff: Laurie Kraus, Rick Turner, Luke Asikoye, Pamela Burdine, Beth Snyder, Susan Krehbiel, Eden Carroll, Dayna Oliver, Deborah Harrison, Suzanne Case & Cameron Stevens.

Excused: David Barnhart

Our meeting opened with a review of the dates & times for the October 2015 Advisory Committee meeting in Louisville at 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.

Monday, Oct. 5

- Check in - Residence Inn by Marriott – Louisville Downtown
- 11:00 AM @ PC(USA) – 3rd Floor Conf. Room #3601 – Orientation for newer A.C. Members – Zandra Maffett, Kathy Morriss, Sally Campbell Evans & possibly John Buchanan plan to participate.
- 4:00 PM @ PC(USA) – 2nd Floor Conf. Room B - Meeting Begins
- 7:00 PM Dinner

Tuesday, Oct 6

- 8:30 AM – 5 PM @ PC(USA) – 2nd Floor Conf. Room B
- 7:00 PM Dinner

Wednesday, Oct 7

- Check out - Residence Inn by Marriott – Louisville Downtown
- 8:30 AM – 2 PM @ PC(USA) – 2nd Floor Conf. Room B – Meeting Concludes

Laurie Kraus gave an update on the PMA Exec Director Succession plans. – if possible, would like to name an interim Executive Director (ED) by the Sept 2015 Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB) Meeting, with ED named at GA 2016.

Advisory Committee Decision:

There has been some confusion about “pulpit supply expenses” policies in the PMA, and how they are to be applied to the rare circumstance of PDA 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

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strained budgets. During the past 15 years of the National Response Team's service, such pulpit reimbursements have been authorized by Stan Hankins or John Robinson (Associate for National Disaster Response) on a case by case basis. These amounts have varied from \$75.00 to \$200.00. I had a conversation with Sara Lisherness about this last week, and upon her recommendation, carried the conversation further to Barry Creech. He suggested we might develop policy around this as he does not see how the existing "pulpit supply expenses" section in the PMA operational manual addresses the specific circumstance we are trying to address with our disaster response protocols.

The addition of this language to PDA and PMA practices is meant to clarify PDA practice within PDA and across the PMA.

If for whatever reason it is deemed helpful to move this clarification through Board approval, PDA's advisory committee will look at it this summer and recommend to PMA Justice Committee this fall. I am not certain that PDA internal expense policy necessarily requires full PMA board action, however. Thanks, Laurie

#### PROPOSED ADDITION TO PDA MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

7/20/15, Laurie Kraus and Rick Turner

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. If 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 from the church.

Sally Campbell Evans moved the issue to a vote, Kathy Fay Lee seconded, and the Committee voted to approve. Information on the addition will go to the PMA Board.

#### Staff Report Summaries

##### Beth Snyder - National Deployment Responses

- TX flooding, tornado - church damage, John Knox Ranch, Immigrant Task Force in Houston
- IL tornado, John Buchanan's church made a visit to the affected areas.
- WY flooding
- MT Shooting
- FL Long Term Recover 2014 flooding - FLAPDAN
- CO June flooding and church damage
- NE church damage
- WV flooding

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Beth Snyder - Grants & Meetings

- 10 grants awarded in June/16 in July.
- Participated in Presbyterian Women (PW) meeting in June.
- PW Disaster Preparation training will be held in Florida in August.
- The PDA Annual Meeting Planning Team will meet in October in St. Louis to plan the April 2016 Annual Meeting.
- A Discernment Team will meet in Jacksonville, FL in January to meeting with potential PDA Volunteers.

Eden Carroll – PDA Call Center

- 31 sites total - scheduling for new sites in OK this year
- YTD all sites - 2467 volunteers
- IL & Detroit hosting teams
- The work teams are experiencing some burnout, aging out

Rick Turner - National

- Kudos to Beth & Eden, Laurie & Suzanne – work has made it easier to take on John's tasks
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in TX asked PDA to come into FEMA field offices to provide Emotional Spiritual Care. If FEMA approves, will send numerous volunteers to various sites.
- In Montana & Ohio – PDA has responded to murder-suicide crises.
- Rick has visited Charleston following the Church shootings – The community is shy about outsiders, want to deal with their own, Rick visited & had lunch with a nearby pastor and the Presbytery Exec - Donnie Woods, and a retired Senator/Pastor from the Charleston area. The church is still a memorial site, attracting visitors.
- Chattanooga response is on hold, have offered services to Campus Ministry, Laurie and Rick plan to visit while in Tennessee this week for Big Tent.

Sally Campbell Evans asked about the first year program for Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) at Ferncliff/PDA Call Center – Our YAV went to AR storm recovery areas.

- The 3 YAVs, including 1 PDA YAV – spent a week in NJ & NY & had a bonding experience with work teams at the Sandy sites.
- PDA is excited to have 2 YAVs in September 2015.

Susan Krehbiel – Refugee Asylum Work

- Visited Houston & San Antonio efforts with detention programs and refugees resettlement.
- LIRS work with asylum seekers
- Big Tent display
- First Friends of NY & NJ - work with detention, case workers & resettlement
- Interviewed clients regarding detention/resettlement
- Hosted luncheons with several Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) churches
- Syrian refugees support between Church World Services (CWS) & PDA
- San Antonio Refugee Ministry Training of National Volunteer/Response Team NRT/NVT members - planned for September.

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Luke Asikoye – International Work

- Response to shootings in Kenya - East & West Africa - Spiritual Care & Compassion Fatigue training provided by Laurie Kraus & Eric Gentry
- The teams we trained are responding to shootings
- Haiyan response in Philippines - shelter
- World Mission partner – Nepal
- Haiti response is winding down, but 2 new projects in Haiti – dealing with undocumented Haitian & Dominican Republic refugees, a complicated political situation; we are determining our best response.

Laurie Kraus - Staff

- Our staff members have worked with grace and patience during loss of Jenny Oldham, 2 American Red Cross contract employees, Laura Stricklen, and John Robinson.
- With Deborah Harrison and Dayna Oliver, we are staffed up for now. Deborah is assisting with Peacemaking, in combination with Dayna in both PDA and Peacemaking.
- Rick has made a smooth and gracious transition, with a very creative approach to our new work at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers have requested to participate in the Refugee Ministry with Susan Krehbiel and our Story Telling Ministry with David Barnhart, who held great presentations and workshops at the National Meeting.
- Sandy recovery story telling efforts are being developed in the Sheepshead Bay and Far Rockaway areas.
- Deborah Harrison is assisting with Peacemaking, in combination with Dayna Oliver in both PDA/Peacemaking.
- Laurie & Alan Baroody worked in Lebanon, providing Compassion Fatigue training to those who work with refugees and are war time pastoring. We are looking at funding a schools project for 200 students, taught by Syrian teachers who are refugees in Lebanon.
- Laurie is involved in systems work with CPJ & building transitions.
- Traveling currently to Big Tent with Bryce Wiebe, of Special Offerings, who gave an OGHS update - through July up the offerings are up 18.5%, with the Gifts Catalog up 300%. The Advisory Committee members can help by encouraging churches to contribute to OGHS & the Catalog.
- We're looking to promote One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Activity in the Portland, OR area. Advisory Committee to discuss in October, ways to participate in GA, June 19-25, 2016. PDA will be in a shared Compassion Peace & Justice (CPJ) booth.
- John Buchanan asked if there is a better time to participate in GA, Laurie's response is that there hasn't been much publicity yet, we'll visit GA ideas in our Oct. meeting.
- New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) OGHS project is proceeding – We're still looking with Self Development of People (SDOP) & Presbyterian Hunger Project (PHP) for a project within the

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GA mandates – likely Salt Water Intrusion mitigation, finding a project that fits what we already do. We are contributing to Project Homecoming – a 10th anniversary of Katrina Faith-based responses.

- Detroit OGHS project - flooding - Eden and volunteers to work on projects. There is an OGHS Collaborative map with all 3 area's work that is to rollout at GA.

Pamela Burdine - Migrating Websites – the PDA site will transition later that most departments, will keep most of current site, but be presented in different ways. PDA's website has a map where we have work projects currently.

Stephanie Fritts – asked about PDA involvement with the serious Drought on the West Coast. National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) has a subcommittee on drought, but PDA hasn't been invited in to respond. We have responded to Wildfire in Colorado, part of the cycle of drought, wildfire, and flooding when the rain comes.

Stephanie closed our meeting in prayer.