

**ITEM B.202  
FOR INFORMATION**

**MISSIONAL RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS (NBPC) AND WORLD MISSION**

The Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries area facilitated conversations in 2014 and 2015 between the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) and the World Mission ministry area to increase recruitment and improve care and retention of African-American mission co-workers and young adult volunteers. The Leadership Cabinet approved a missional partnership agreement between NBPC and the Presbyterian Mission Agency at the Leadership Cabinet meeting on August 4, 2015, and it is being presented to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board for celebration and thanks to God.

This Office Missional Partnership is bound together by common cause and a specific relationship with NBPC, and the agreement places the relationship in the context of Presbyterian Mission Agency directional goals. This agreement is to be formally reviewed at least every four years to coincide with the Presbyterian Mission Agency's planning cycle. The next renewal is expected in 2019. In addition, either missional partner may request a review at any time. Following is a copy of the Agreement:

**Missional Relationship Agreement Between the  
National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC)  
and the Presbyterian Mission Agency  
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency welcomes partnerships in service of Jesus Christ that share common mission focus with the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Missional relationships with associations that are closely aligned with the Presbyterian Mission Agency directional goals will be formalized once every four years.

*Please provide the following information about the professional association:*

**NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION:** National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN THIS ORGANIZATION:** Members are teaching elders, ruling elders, church members, mid-council and national agency staff and congregations.

**DESCRIBE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION:** NBPC is committed to Jesus Christ, working to ensure that the witness of Presbyterians of African descent is healthy, growing, dynamic and empowering; that racial justice is integral in the church's self-understanding and lived out in every aspect of ministry within the Presbyterian Church. Article 8.2 and 8.3 of "The Articles Of Agreement" of the PC(USA), as found in the *Book Of Order*, reads, "Racial ethnic members in the United States (Presbyterians of African, Hispanic and Asian descent and Native Americans) shall be guaranteed full participation and access to representation in the decision-making of the Church, and shall be able to form caucuses." And, "Consistent with the principles of diversity and inclusiveness as set forth in 8.2, the General Assembly Council [now the Presbyterian Mission Agency] shall consult with and receive input from the racial caucuses of the Church, and shall make provision for the expenses necessary to such consultations. The purposes of such consultations shall include: determining the priorities for assisting racial ethnic churches and ministries, developing a denominational strategy for racial ethnic church

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development, finding ways to assure the funding and operational needs of schools and other institutions which historically have served Black Americans and other racial ethnic groups.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THIS MINISTRY?** NBPC represents the historic legacy and continuing existence of a Black Caucus in the Presbyterian Church, which was first organized by Black clergy in 1856 at Shiloh Presbyterian Church of New York City. NBPC works in programmatic partnership with the Office of African American Congregational Support in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries and has recently engaged in conversations with the World Mission ministry area to increase recruitment and retention of African-American mission co-workers and young adult volunteers.

### **HOW DOES THIS ORGANIZATION CONTRIBUTE TO ONE OF MORE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY DIRECTIONAL GOALS?**

Compassionate Prophetic Discipleship: NBPC collaborates with Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries in the areas of social justice, particularly racial justice. Part of NBPC's purpose is to speak and act on those issues that adversely affect the lives of people of African descent; to achieve full participation of its members in the total Church and society; and to combat racism and injustice.

Transformational Leaders: At their recent biennial convention held July 9-11, 2015, in Charlotte, NC, workshops were provided to strengthen leadership skills and share information, including sharing information on the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Educate a Child initiative.

1001 New Worshiping Communities: Part of NBPC's purpose is to promote church growth and the strengthening of Black Presbyterian congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

General Assembly Engagement: We normally share an exhibit space with Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries and sponsor a luncheon at General Assemblies. And, we have a representative on ACREC. We advocate for racial justice and the full participation of African Americans in the church and society.

### **WHAT IS THE PARTNER PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY MINISTRY OFFICE?**

Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries.

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY STAFF CONTACT:** Lonnie Oliver, Associate for African American Congregational Support

**ORGANIZATION WEBSITE:** <http://www.nationalnbpc.org/>

### **ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**WHEN DOES THE ORGANIZATION REGULARLY MEET?** NBPC holds a national biennial convention. NBPC's Executive Board holds regular meetings. The Associate for African American Congregational Support in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries joins the Executive Board on these calls.

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The NBPC Regions and Chapters also hold meetings, which includes the *Mid-Atlantic*, the *Mid-South*, the *Midwest*, the *Northeast*, the *Southeast*, and the *Southwest* regions.



### Missional Relationship between National Black Presbyterian Caucus and World Mission

#### **Preamble:**

As heirs to God's grace in Jesus Christ, and joint heirs with all who confess him Lord, we affirm our place as Presbyterians in the whole Body of Christ, the Church. We give visible recognition of our belonging to one another as one denominational family. We give this recognition as Presbyterians through our connectional system of congregations, caucuses, mission networks, presbyteries, synods, General Assemblies and related institutions. The one table around which we gather is God's table and the one mission to which we are called is God's mission.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) declares that wherever one part is engaged in God's mission, all are engaged. Whenever and wherever one engages in that mission, one bears witness to the saving love of God in Jesus Christ. Through this love, empowered by the Holy Spirit, all are made one. This unity is a gift of God's grace that extends across cultural, linguistic, economic and other barriers that divide us within the Body of Christ and across the human family.

The practice of partnership guides our whole connectional church. It guides us individually as members, officers and pastors. It guides us collectively as congregations, caucuses, presbyteries, synods, General Assembly ministries and related institutions.

#### **Defining our shared mission:**

As Christians, we understand "Mission" to be God's work for the sake of the world God loves. We understand this work to be centered in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and made real through the active and leading power of the Holy Spirit. The "where" and "how" and "with whom" of mission is of God's initiative, sovereign action, and redeeming grace. The message we are called to bear is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

#### **Defining partnership:**

Recognizing our human limitations and because of our fundamental unity in Jesus Christ, we believe we are called to mission in the discipline of partnership. We believe that doing mission in partnership broadens our awareness of how interconnected God's mission is at the local, national and global levels.

Jesus invites us as friends to follow his commandment of love and bear fruit that will last (John 15:12-17). Like Paul and Titus, we become partners with each other and with Christ in united and mutual service (II Corinthians 8:16-24). *Guided by Christ's humility, we work to empty ourselves of all pride, power, sin, and privilege so that God may be glorified* (Philippians 2:5-11). Within and beyond our connectional community, doing mission in such true partnership opens us to opportunities for mutual encouragement, mutual transformation, mutual service and mutual renewal.

**Principles of Partnership:**

In doing mission in partnership, we seek to be guided by certain principles:

1. **Shared Grace and Thanksgiving.** Partnership calls all partners to confess individual and collective failings, to seek forgiveness for complicity with powers of injustice, to repent from histories of shared exploitation, to move toward common celebration of Christ's sacrifice of reconciliation, and together to give thanks and praise to God for all gifts of grace and renewal.
2. **Mutuality and Interdependence.** Partnership calls for interdependence in which mutual aid comes to all, where mutual accountability resides, and no partner dominates another because of affluence or "expertise."
3. **Recognition and Respect.** Partnership calls all partners to respect other partners in Christ, and to recognize one another's equal standing before God.
4. **Open Dialogue and Transparency.** Partnership calls for open dialogue where a common discernment of God's call to mission is sought, where Scripture is the base for prophetic challenge, where local initiative is respected, where differences are meditated in a Christ-like manner, and where all partners are transparent with regard to their activities and support.
5. **Sharing of Resources.** Partnership calls for the sharing of all types of resources: human, cultural, financial and spiritual; especially including friendly conversation and faith-transforming life experiences.

**Naming our history and desire to move forward together:**

We're part of a society, a church, and the organization of Presbyterian World Mission that has been shaped by fallen humans who have contributed to building structures tainted by racism and our covenant purposes to live together into God's good intention for a church and society and world that name, challenge and address racism and its dehumanizing impact on perpetrators and victims/survivors of racism.

**What we covenant to:**

Presbyterian World Mission and National Black Presbyterian Caucus covenant to work together in authentic partnership in God's mission around the world.

The specific areas where the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and Presbyterian World Mission agree to:

Targeted education & recruitment efforts bringing the African American reality and experiences of African Americans in mission into the denomination's mission education efforts to increase the number of African Americans within the PC (U.S.A.) answering God's call to mission & justice work as Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) and Mission Co-workers.

Authentic truth and reconciliation, mission education, and process building among PC(U.S.A.) congregations to encourage African-American mission participation, especially among youth and young adults.

Develop strategies and components for orientation and ongoing care to retain and motivate African-American mission personnel, including Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs).