

**ITEM C.204**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**2016 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM INFORMATION AND PLANNING UPDATE**

The next Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) will be held July 19-23, 2016 at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. The theme for the event is GO – strongly echoing Jesus’ command to “go into the world making disciples” while also engaging participants with daily themes of “Go and See”, “Go and Do likewise”, “Teach me the way I should go”, and “Let my people Go.” (See Attachment A – Theme Grid).

**Budget and Financial Management:**

PYT staff and colleagues from the (former) Evangelism and Church Growth (ECG) leadership have worked together, along with Simon Park, special financial consultant to ECG in 2015, to develop a Special Events Budget that allows staff to project and track “real time” expenses and revenue over a two year budget cycle. Under Simon’s recommendation the Special Event Budget was expanded to include sub-budgets that reflect detailed fees, projected expenses and actual expenses throughout each account line of the Triennium budget. Simone Andrade-Adams, Coordinator for Mission Effectiveness for Theology, Formation and Evangelism, Simon Park, and the PYT staff met for a budget review and recommendations meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Center. The Special Event Budget was approved by Earline Williams, CFO of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) in May 2015 and added to the conference planning binder for PYT.

**Planning:**

In March 2015 the Production Team met in Henryville, Indiana for their first meeting. The Coordinating Team (senior coordinators of the Triennium team) met prior to the full Production Team meeting and previously in May 2014. The Production Team is made up of youth, young adults and adult youth workers from the PC(USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian churches. Working with the 2016 theme “GO” (See Attachment B - Flyer) the teams finalized the event schedule, developed the sub-themes and biblical focus for each day, and met in work groups (called “ministry teams”) to further expand the event and theme.

**Venue Discernment:**

In March 2015 the governor of the state of Indiana signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) law into effect prompting public commentary and ecclesiastical concern by many in the PC (USA) regarding potential civil rights offenses caused by the RFRA in Indiana. Through social media, written correspondence, voiced concern and digital communication many Presbyterians urged PYT leadership to move the 2016 Triennium from an Indiana based venue. In preparation for the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board’s potential decision to move the event, the Triennium Administrator developed three potential alternative sites where, with relatively short notice for a large event, the Triennium could be held. The Board voted, at its April 2015 meeting, to keep the Triennium at Purdue University.

**Contract:**

PYT leadership and PMA staff from the Legal department, GA Meeting Services and Finance and Accounting offices are currently reviewing and refining the terms of the Letter of Agreement – the binding document or contract between Purdue and the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A, A Corporation. The Letter of Agreement is expected to be fully executed in October 2015. In addition to the Letter of Agreement, PYT staff is developing a covenant/partnership agreement that outlines the administrative and financial expectations of the two sponsoring denominations of the Triennium.

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
**September 23-25, 2015**  
**Theology, Formation and Evangelism Ministry Area**


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**Promotion, Registration, Anticipation:**

In May 2015 the Office of Ministries with Youth / PYT staff welcomed Molly Atkinson as the new National Registrar for the Triennium. Molly is working with mid-councils and churches in sponsoring denominations to recruit volunteer registrars. In May and June 2015 promotional materials and information were made available to all PC(USA) congregations and mid councils through direct email, e-newsletters, on the Triennium website, and in a direct mailing sent in June 2015. Most promotion for the 2016 event will be through digital and social media avenues. Oversight of the registration system is handled by the PMA Information Technology (IT) department in cooperation with PYT staff. A small number of delegations and their registrars will serve as “testers” in Fall 2015 helping to refine the registration system before it goes “live” in 2016. Registration is projected to open in early 2016 (late January or early February). Summer 2016 will be, for the PMA, a summer with General Assembly and Triennium – both large events utilizing the online registration system. With over 5000 participants expected for PYT – testing and IT support are of high concern and priority in the time leading up to July 2016.

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
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**ATTACHMENT A**



Tuesday 7.19	Wednesday 7.20	Thursday 7.21	Friday 7.22	Saturday 7.23
<p><i>GO and see</i> SEE <i>Luke 2:8-20</i></p> <p><b>THE STORY:</b> Shepherds &amp; angel(s) Terrified, unsure that it's for them, outsiders to the temple. Reassured by "a sign" for them to know they were called. Had experienced rejection when it came to religion, community, etc. Even in their doubt &amp; fear they were unknowingly already part of the story. What it means to stand in the glory of God; to be terrified by God; how can this be good news for us? You may have thought you decided to come here? Or may be unsure of that decision to come? But God has called you here and is sending you <b>out</b>. And you are already a part of the story!</p> <p><b>INVITATION:</b> <i>Go and see! Open your eyes, pay attention and like the shepherds <b>return</b>... glorifying God and telling about what you saw.</i></p> <p><b>NO, TURNING POINT, GO moments ...</b></p> <p><b>NO</b> This is out of our comfort zone. We are scared. It's not for us. (We're just shepherds/teenagers) We've been rejected before – why should we try again?</p> <p><b>TURNING POINT</b> They listened to God. God offered a sign, a sign of reassurance. God dazzled them!</p> <p><b>GO</b> Let's go <b>right now!</b> They went together. (Let's) They summoned their courage.</p>	<p><i>GO and do likewise</i> DO <i>Luke 10:25-37</i></p> <p><b>THE STORY:</b> Good Samaritan parable used by Jesus to help the lawyer understand who was his "neighbor." Starts out with lawyer looking for a formula or step-by-step for eternal life. Sometimes the parable takes over what just might be the real point of the story (the lawyer and his resistance). Relationship not rules. Lawyer wants to keep faith at a distance – through rules. Jesus uses the parable to make it personal. This reminds us that our neighbor is often those from whom we distance ourselves. For Jesus there is no "us" or "them." The lawyer wanted easy answers maybe? But explained that truly "GOING" means deeply caring. It is messy. Sometimes it takes another story or illustration for us to see ourselves.</p> <p><b>INVITATION:</b> <i>Refuse to resist the notion that there is an "us" and "them". We are all neighbors. Jesus' way of going and doing is clear.</i></p> <p><b>NO, TURNING POINT, GO moments ...</b></p> <p><b>NO</b> The lawyer's need to be <b>right</b>. To keep doing what he was doing/what we're doing. Finding loopholes for something bigger than rules (relationship).</p> <p><b>TURNING POINT</b> When the lawyer responds to Jesus "the one who demonstrated mercy," he acknowledges what Jesus is trying to teach him.</p> <p><b>GO</b> Interesting here because we don't know the "GO" moment of the lawyer but we know what we can do. Go – and be that good neighbor. To people this week. People you don't know. People who might be different from you. Believe a different thing than you do. Etc.</p>	<p><i>Teach me the way I should GO</i> DISCERN <i>Psaltn 32</i></p> <p><b>THE STORY:</b> I will teach you the way you should go. Consider the context of the writer (David?). His age and stage of life. His experiences with messing up, moving on, God's guidance. All about humble "teachable" moment for God to transform. God will counsel "with my eye." This psalm starts with failure and iniquities. We are not puppets or robots that God controls; God teaches us the way to go and let's us go. Steadfast love surrounds those who <b>trust</b> (relationship and process). Experience of forgiveness changes everything and initiates a process of discernment and learning.</p> <p><b>INVITATION:</b> <i>Your failures are not the end of you or of God's work but they are a teachable moment to learn God's ways.</i></p> <p><b>NO, TURNING POINT, GO moments ...</b></p> <p><b>NO</b> I'm not teachable. I messed up. I'm a failure. I ruined God's perfect plan for my life.</p> <p><b>TURNING POINT</b> Being open to God. Realizing I need forgiveness and a redo. Again.</p> <p><b>GO</b> This "go" moment starts with a failure and the recognition and the turning to God. <i>Your failures are not the end of you or of God's work but they are a teachable moment to learn God's ways.</i></p>	<p><i>Let My People GO</i> ADVOCATE <i>Exodus 3-7</i></p> <p><b>THE STORY:</b> God goes to Moses. Moses goes to Aaron. Aaron goes back to Moses. Moses goes to Pharaoh. There is a lot of Going sometimes in making justice happen. This is about justice and how long and difficult advocacy can be. The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice (MLK). Moses was resistant, Aaron was resistant, and the Hebrew people were scared and critical of the steps to freedom. Pharaoh was stubborn and resistant to God's voice and intention. Go to Pharaoh, and tell him "Let my people go." Addresses the myth that "doing the right thing" will get you rewarded. It very well might not. But it is still the right thing to do. Despite how hard and long this process of freedom took it is still the <b>defining</b> event of the Hebrew people. Exodus means, "to go."</p> <p><b>INVITATION:</b> <i>Another word for God is "the advocate" – God advocates for us. All of us. As hard as it is, as long as it can take, we are called to advocate for others – as they are also God's.</i></p> <p><b>NO, TURNING POINT, GO moments ...</b></p> <p><b>NO</b> Moses says, "I can't." Aaron says, "I can't." Hebrew people say, "It's hard to go."</p> <p><b>TURNING POINT</b> There are several. But then there are also multiple "no" moments between. The Hebrew people had to leave behind in order to "GO."</p> <p><b>GO</b> Pharaoh released upon understanding God's love for God's oppressed people. The Hebrew people just <b>went</b> (without their bread being baked, without their possessions, in a hurry). And in "GOING" – it was just the start.</p>	<p><i>The great GO Mission</i> GO <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i></p> <p><b>THE STORY:</b> The great commission Jesus is raised and now <b>all authority is his</b>. So what is he going to do now? He sends <b>us</b> to go out in his name. He sent the disciples into the world. Don't stay on the mountain; go out and create learners/disciples. They worshipped with Jesus, touched him, sat with him once again, but still some doubted ... you're in good company!! The disciples weren't stagnant figures or figureheads of important religious standing; they were commanded to "GO" and make a difference.</p> <p><b>INVITATION:</b> <i>Don't be satisfied with just a really cool selfie from a great event. The whole reason God brought you here is for you to go from this place and make disciples, make a difference. What are you going to do? And remember – you are not alone. There is a church waiting for you. There are these people, sitting next to you, in your bus. And Jesus himself is with you.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>And Jesus says <b>GO</b>.</i></p> <p><b>NO, TURNING POINT, GO moments ...</b></p> <p><b>NO</b> You might forget. Your life will take over your mission, your energy, and your courage. It could be hard.</p> <p><b>TURNING POINT</b> Remember that "GO" is not an invitation. It's a command. An action.</p> <p><b>GO</b> With others ... With your church ... As you take the next steps in your faith and in your life.</p>

ATTACHMENT B



The graphic features a blue sneaker with orange laces and lightning bolts, a large green 'GO' with a white outline, and the text '2016 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH Triennium Information Sheet' in blue and orange. The background is a textured, light brown color with a blue border.

**2016 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH Triennium Information Sheet**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 19 – Saturday, July 23, 2016

**Location:** Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

**Audience:** High School Age youth and accompanying adult advisors  
(Entering freshmen through graduated seniors; adult advisors must be 21 years of age).

**Theme:** GO  
GO and See  
GO and Do Likewise  
Teach me the way I should GO  
Let my people GO  
GO into the world

**Registration:** Registration will open in January 2016 and will conclude in early May 2016.

**Fee:** \$505.00 per person (includes housing, meals, program costs)

**Website:** [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

**Delegations:**  
A participant attends the Triennium in a delegation. Delegations can be PRESBYTERY delegations or CHURCH delegations. Most participants come with their presbytery in a PRESBYTERY DELEGATION. But churches can also come as a delegation. For more information visit the Triennium website and click on REGISTRATION to consult the documents related to Delegations and Registration. Contact the National PYT Registrar at [pytregistrar@pcusa.org](mailto:pytregistrar@pcusa.org) or 1-888-728-5049.

**Help them GO!**  
Triennium is a life giving, life changing, faith moving experience! As the world changes, society shifts – and the church expands – the need for vibrant young Presbyterians grows. Help your young people GO to the next great place in their faith!

[www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)