

ITEM D.204
FOR INFORMATION

**CHURCHWIDE CONFERENCE ON RACE, ETHNICITY, RACISM,
AND ETHNOCENTRICITY**

The 221st General Assembly (2014) took the action to call for a churchwide conference on race, ethnicity, racism, and ethnocentricity to be held in 2015. In addition, the Assembly directed the Moderator to appoint a planning team of ten people for this event, in consultation with: a) Racial ethnic congregational leadership; b) Racial ethnic caucus leadership; c) Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC); d) Presbytery and synod leadership; e) General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR); f) Representatives from the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA).

The team appointed by the Moderator is:

- Afaf Girgis, San Dimas, CA
- Joanna Kim, Irving, TX
- Larissa Kwong Abazia, Forest Hills, NY – Co-Moderator
- Jerrod B. Lowry, Sandy, UT
- Eliana Maxim, Seattle, WA
- Shivonia Singleton, Charlotte, NC
- Elona Street-Steward, Saint Paul, MN – Co-Moderator
- Amaury Tañón-Santos, Edison, NJ
- Jessica Vazquez Torres, Louisville, KY
- Byron Wade, Raleigh, NC

Racial ethnic ministry, to a large extent, is a response to a history of discrimination and lament on current pains of structural racism and ethnocentricity within the church body. This churchwide conference will involve leadership to work in conjunction with larger and majority congregations to find visible solutions to visible and invisible racism and discriminations that are within different ethnic groups toward each other also. This conference will be the beginning step needed to recognize and heal wounds. The outcome of this conference and resulting recommendations will be reported to the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

The team met May 7-9, 2015, in New York City. The conference on Race, Ethnicity, Racism and Ethnocentricity is scheduled for November 5-7, 2015, at Stony Point Conference Center.