

**ITEM D.205**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES**

In intercultural communities, there is comprehensive mutuality, reciprocity, and equality. Our social structures and everyday interactions are defined by justice, diversity, and respect. In intercultural community, people engage in a deeper way than in multicultural or cross-cultural models of community, in that there are mutually reciprocal relationships among and between cultures. People from different cultural groups interact with one another, build relationships, and become transformed from each other's experiences. The focus is on relationship building, not survival. Deep connections, interactions and learning occur in these interactions, and no one is left unchanged in the intercultural process. Some examine their own culture more deeply, and some are changed through their interaction with others. Many learn more about what it means to be in community together. Also, racial and cultural power imbalances are addressed, leading toward the transformation of communities.

The Office of Intercultural Ministries in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries engages the church in its vision to become truly intercultural and to practice cultural humility, as we seek to better appreciate, reflect, and engage in the communities around us.

In collaboration with the Presbyterian Intercultural Network, this office inspires congregations and mid-councils to develop strategies and coordinate efforts for intercultural ministries. By doing so, the office assists the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in its efforts to become God's intercultural community, building multiracial, multilingual, and intercultural communities of faith.

The Intercultural Ministries Office equips and connects leaders through intercultural church conferences and trainings. It also gathers young adults for meetings of the Presbyterian Young Adult Network.

Sterling Morse is the coordinator for the Office of Intercultural Ministries. Events held at the Big Tent 2015 included the Presbyterian Intercultural Ministries Pre-conference, the Presbyterian Intercultural Young Adult Network Post-Conference and several intercultural ministries workshops. See Sterling Morse for more information.