

**ITEM B.105
FOR ACTION**

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation
	C. Leadership		G. Audit
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

Subject: Comment on the 222nd General Assembly (2016) – Overture 005 (Business Item #11-02) “On Setting Aside “Forming Social Policy” at the Next Three General Assemblies” – From the Presbytery of Foothills

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 005 (Business Item #11-02) “On Setting Aside “Forming Social Policy” at the Next Three General Assemblies” – From the Presbytery of Foothills

Comment:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency comments on the implications of proposed actions on the work of the agency. In this case, if the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) is limited to an educational role, the Office of Public Witness, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, and other ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency would not be able to speak to new issues with the authority of the Assembly. Within the distribution of tasks determined by the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee studies issues and builds on precedents in policy, bringing updates and new matters to each Assembly, consulting with those engaged in mission and with appropriate experts. Staff would, of necessity, proceed to determine on their own the positions of the church on urgent matters of justice and other moral challenges before our world.

Other parts of the Compassion, Peace, and Justice (CPJ) ministries area provide education on matters related to their areas, such as Peacemaking, Hunger, and Disaster Assistance, using resolutions and policies developed by ACSWP, such as resolutions on gun violence, poverty, end-of-life issues, public education, or “Religion, Violence, and Terrorism.” The CPJ newsletter provides information on the range of ministries and resources for them, relying in part on the voluntary networks of those most committed to the issues to help with education in mid-councils and congregations.

Within Theology, Worship, and Education, there are resources that address some of the concerns of this overture, such as the series of booklets on the Great Ends of the Church.

Link to Overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/5291>