

**ITEM C.105  
FOR ACTION**

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

**Subject: Comment to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) on Overture 051 (Business Item #11-06) On Resources for Learning, Reflection and Reconciliation – from the Presbytery of John Knox**

**Recommendation:**

**That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 51 (Business Item #11-06) On Resources for Learning, Reflection, and Reconciliation—From the Presbytery of John Knox**

**Comment:**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long held that it must face racism, confess our complicity in the system of institutional racism, and work towards racial justice and reconciliation in church and society in our witness to the Gospel. As we begin to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of the Confession of 1967 and as this General Assembly considers adding the Confession of Belhar to the Book of Confessions, and approving a revised Churchwide Antiracism Policy (Facing Racism: A vision of the Intercultural Community) we acknowledge in the words of the proposed revised Antiracism Policy that, "This is not a time for timidity. The current struggles over racial justice in the United States mark a *kairos* moment. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long held strong convictions regarding the sinfulness of racism and the need to struggle against it. Speaking our own convictions now, with clarity and power, could make a tangible difference in the current struggle. Furthermore, it is required of us, as the church is called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Neglecting to speak powerfully in this moment would also be regrettable.

This Overture calls for a time of learning, reflection and reconciliation. It also calls for “the development of curricula on issues such as ‘white Privilege’ and racial justice for study on the congregational and/or Presbytery level.” These materials have already been developed and are available.

In response to a referral of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014), training materials on antiracism were created. These training materials are available for presbyteries and congregations. Also, staff and antiracism trainers from the Office of Gender and Racial Justice in the Presbyterian Mission Agency are available to visit presbyteries and congregations to offer trainings and/or to train antiracism trainers.

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**

**April 27-29, 2016**

**Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries**

In 2008 the General Assembly directed the Presbyterian Mission Agency (formerly the General Assembly Council) to expand on basic antiracism training to include modules on the intersectionality of race, gender, and class, and to provide focused training on internalized oppression and privilege with a timeline as follows:

- (a) the Intersections of Race, Gender, and Class by 2010;
- (b) Internalized Oppression (Race & Gender) by 2012; and
- (c) White Privilege and Male Privilege by 2014—Item 09-13, “*Hearing and Singing New Songs to God: Shunning Old Discords and Sharing New Harmonies*,” Recommendation 10, from the Women of Color Consultation Task Force (Minutes, 2008, Part I, pp. 54, 55, 964–77).

In response to this General Assembly referral, antiracism training materials were expanded, and in 2010 new modules on the intersectionality of race, gender and class were created; and in 2011 a new module on Internalized Oppression was completed; and in 2014 a module on Privilege was completed.

The Churchwide Antiracism Policy Team has also created study guides based on topics and concepts covered in the 2016 proposed revised antiracism policy *Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community*. The topics of the six guides are:

- 1. Biblical Imperatives to Antiracism,
- 2. Envisioning a New Way of Life Together,
- 3. PC(USA) and Racial Reconciliation,
- 4. Racism 101,
- 5. Enduring Legacy of Racism in the U.S., and
- 6. Responding as a Community of Faith. This training tool includes a list of antiracism resources for congregations or presbyteries desiring further information. The study guides are available at <http://www.pcusa.org/racialjustice> (Presbyterian Mission Agency's Racial Justice web site).

Since antiracism modules, including a module on privilege, already exists, the Presbyterian Mission Agency in consultation with its Churchwide Antiracism Policy Team, suggests that the most useful strategy is to make these study materials, resources, and the antiracism policy more accessible.

Link to Overture: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6336>