

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
April 27-29, 2016
Theology, Formation, and Evangelism Ministry Area

ITEM C.111
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 GA (2016) – on Overture 015 (Business Item 14-01) On Amending W-4.9000 by Replacing With New Text – From the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 015 (Business Item 14-01) On Amending W-4.9000 by Replacing With New Text – From the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas

Comment:

This overture asks the General Assembly to reverse the decision of the last Assembly and define marriage as only between one man and one woman. Over the last several years the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has sought to fashion a careful path amidst our strong disagreements with regard to faithful sexual relationship, where our disagreements have focused on ordination standards and marriage.

The General Assembly recognized as fully legitimate the affirmation that faithful sexual relationships find their place only in the marriage of a woman and a man and the affirmation that faithful sexual relationships can include same gender marriages.

The denomination has therefore declined to label only one view of these matters “faithful.” This approach is evident in the decision to adopt Amendment 10-A on ordination and the recent adoption of Amendment 14-F on Marriage, both now included in the Book of Order. This approach to our understanding of church amid disagreement on these issues is explored in the paper “Our Challenging Way: Faithfulness, Sex, Ordination, and Marriage” (<http://bit.ly/1TIVcCB>) from the Office of Theology & Worship. In addition, commissioners may find helpful “Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement,” a document written to help Presbyterians deal with difficult conversations in healthy and productive ways:

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/guidelines.pdf

Link to Overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6287>