

## ITEM C.202 FOR INFORMATION

### True to Our Purpose Presbyterian Women's Shared Work with the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. ("PW"), true to its Purpose, works closely with the various agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ("church") to support the work of the church. A summary of recent work shared with PMA follows.

#### Supporting the mission of the church

- PW's Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) has adopted the Educate a Child Initiative as a triennial goal, and is planning Together in Action Days in May around children's literacy. For more resources and information, see [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice).
- PW is in missional partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, recruiting and training disaster preparedness trainers. A train-the-trainer event was part of a PW visit to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center this spring. Three training events will be held in June in conjunction with Presbyterian Women in the synod gatherings.
- PW gives significant grants each year to dozens of creative ministries that serve women, children and men around the world. Many of these are projects recommended by or endorsed by World Mission ("WM") personnel. In just the last 27 years, PW has given more than \$20,000,000 in major grants to close to a hundred national and international projects through the Birthday Offering. PW has granted more than \$70,000,000 to nearly a thousand creative ministries---national and international---through the Thank Offering. And PW has given more than \$70,000,000 to support programs and ministries of PW and the Presbyterian Mission Agency ("PMA"), through PW's annual fund, the Mission Pledge.
- In addition to fundraising, Presbyterian Women groups at the local and regional levels contribute countless hours to local and regional mission and service work, nurture faith, serve as leaders, work for justice and peace, and build community!
- PW raises money for the Presbyterian Hunger Program through Cents-ability, and it advocates for anti-hunger legislation and adequate maternal/child nutrition in partnership with both the Hunger Program and Bread for the World.
- Presbyterian Women, at all levels of the church, supports the work of the church through participation, fundraising and publicity, promoting programs and sharing the story of collaboration in dozens, if not hundreds, of newsletters, Facebook pages and more.
- As WM seeks to walk alongside mission partners ministering to women in areas of great need, PW seeks to support WM's work on behalf of women. In an era of tight budgets, PW is seeking creative ways to support this work, besides funding some of that work through PW offerings. Some of the additional ways PW supports this work is by promoting Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day cards, sharing videos produced by WM on PW's YouTube channel and publishing stories of WM's partners' and coworkers' work in PW print publications and blogs.
- Each triennium, PW collaborates with various programs and offices of the church to present relevant and transformational workshops at the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. Presbyterian Women at the local, presbytery and synod levels also supports the various programs and ministries of the church by inviting representatives of those programs and ministries to speak at their events.

### **Nurturing faith**

- PW publishes Bible studies annually that bring tens of thousands of women (and men) together across the church (and ecumenically). The 2011–2012 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymer, was commended to the entire church by the 220th General Assembly (2012). The 2017–18 study is *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by teaching elder Judy Yates Siker.

### **Working for justice and peace**

- For the fourth year, PW held Together in Action Days in January around the issue of human trafficking. For more information, see [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice).
- At its February 2016 board meeting, the CCT reaffirmed PW's commitment to racial justice, identifying opportunities to participate in the Black Lives Matter movement and pledging to continue to work for full inclusion for all God's children. Thank you to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for allowing PW to use its "Why 'Black Lives Matter'?" flier, available for download at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice). This is a wonderful example of how Presbyterian Women collaborates at all levels of the church, informing and being informed by women in the pews.
- PW supports the PMA's Campaign for Fair Food through promotion of the campaign, as well as support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

### **Building inclusive, caring community**

- Think you know Presbyterian Women? Think again! PW has launched a light-hearted, happily serious series of posters designed to freshen the image of Presbyterian Women and reflect the full complement of Presbyterian Women's work on behalf of the church. Download posters at ([www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/think-you-know-pw](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/think-you-know-pw))! These posters are meant to be shared (on bulletin boards or refrigerator doors, in newsletters or in circle meetings!). This (gentle) educational campaign challenges everyone to rethink what it means to be a part of Presbyterian Women.
- PW's new website will launch this spring. Though the website will be independent from the PMA site, the PMA and PW sites will be clearly linked through content and programs.

### **Witnessing to the promise . . .**

- PW suggests its mission partners for the PMA's International Peacemaker program. In 2015, two women who are related to mission partners of PW itinerated as peacemakers—Sushma Ramswami (India) and Berthe Nzeba (Democratic Republic of Congo). There is potential for even more in 2016.
- Participants of Presbyterian Women groups regularly attend advocacy training at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., learning to advocate with those of God's children who are marginalized, and whose voices are unheard.