

Report D.001
Worshiping Communities Committee
Presbyterian Mission Agency Board
April 28, 2016

The Worshiping Communities Committee met on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky and forwards the following to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board:

I. For Consent: No Items

II. For Action:

- 1. That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve and forward to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) the amended comment on Ovt. 029 – Regarding Endorsing the Clergy Letter Project. (D.103) – Addendum #1**
- 2. That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve and forward to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) the amended comment on Ovt. 030 – On Choosing to be a Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25. (D.104) - Adendum #2**
- 3. That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve and forward to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) the amended comment on Ovt. 040 – On Amending W-2.4011 by Adding Language Regarding Who Can Access the Lord’s Supper. (D.105) - Adendum #3**
- 4. That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following outstanding New Church Development as the 2016 Sam & Helen R. Walton Award Recipient which was selected and recommended by the Mission Development Resources Committee at its March 16-17, 2016, meeting to receive a one-time award of up to \$50,000:**
 - First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church, Las Vegas, NV, Nevada Presbytery, Synod of the Pacific ([D.102](#))**

III. For Information:

- A. The February 4, 2016, minutes were approved with amendments ([D.101](#))
- B. The meeting agenda was approved as presented ([D.100](#))
- C. The committee heard an update report from Vera White on the 1001 New Worshiping Communities ([D.200](#))
- D. Gina Yeager Buckley reported on the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium ([D.201](#))
- E. Ray Jones updated the committee on New Beginnings

**ITEM D.103
 FOR ACTION**

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

Subject: Comment to the 222nd GA (2016) – Overture 029 (Business Item 14-02) Regarding Endorsing the Clergy Letter Project – From the Presbytery of Cascades

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 029 (Business Item 14-02) Regarding Endorsing the Clergy Letter Project – From the Presbytery of Cascades to the 222nd GA (2016).

Comment:

Overture 029 seeks General Assembly endorsement for the Clergy Letter Project which affirms that “the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist;” **and urges Presbyterians to contribute to discussions about the teaching of evolution in public science education.**

The purpose of this comment is to review existing GA policy on this topic. **What follows is a review of existing GA policy on this topic.**

In 1969 the Presbyterian Church in the United States affirmed “Evolution and the Bible,” the statement on evolution that continues to guide the PCUSA to this day, “Neither Scripture, our Confession of Faith, nor our Catechisms, teach the Creation of man by the direct and immediate acts of God so as to exclude the possibility of evolution as a scientific theory” [PCUS Minutes 1969, p. 59].

In addition, the Assembly has affirmed the statements on scripture found in “Biblical Authority and Interpretation” [UPCUSA 1982, pp. 316-335] and “Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture” [PCUS, 1983, pp. 607-61] concerning the authority and interpretation of scripture. “Biblical Authority” notes that there are several models of authority and interpretation of scripture and does not describe any one of them as exclusive for Presbyterians. “Presbyterian Understanding and Use” articulates the manner in which the plain (or literal) interpretation of the text has been a formative practice in our tradition.

Link to Overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6304>

**ITEM D.104
 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
	C. Leadership		G. Audit
X	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

Subject: Comment to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) – Overture 030 (Business Item #11-03) “On Choosing to be Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25” – From the Presbytery of Cascades

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 030 (Business Item #11-03) “On Choosing to be Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25” – From the Presbytery of Cascades

Comment:

~~The Presbyterian Mission Agency and Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries www.presbyterianmission.org/cpj work with partners in order to root our ministries in the lives of the poor and to offer opportunities for connections with congregations and mid-councils to share the experience and advocate with our partners.~~

We are grateful that we are a church that is already living a Mathew 25 ministry through programs led by Compassion, Peace and Justice and Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries (www.presbyterianmission.org/cpj, www.pcusa.org/racialethnic). We affirm the spirit and intention of the overture and give special thanks for congregations that support these ministries by giving to the Special Offerings.

A link to the overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6305>

**ITEM D.105
 FOR ACTION**

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

Subject: **Comment to the 222nd GA (2016) – Overture 040 (Business Item 14-03) On Amending W-2.4011 by Adding Language Regarding Who Can Access the Lord’s Supper**

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 040 (Business Item 14-03) On Amending W-2.4011 by Adding Language Regarding Who Can Access the Lord’s Supper – From the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois to the 222nd GA (2016).

Comment:

This overture seeks to amend the language of the current Directory for Worship in W-2.4011. Before this Assembly is a recommendation by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (see Item 14-04) to revise the entire Directory for Worship in response to the actions of previous assemblies [216th General Assembly (2004) 04-12, 221st General Assembly (2014) 13-02]. Included in this proposed revision of the Directory for Worship is new language in W-3.0409 (that replaces what is presently W-2.4011) consistent with the overall theological framework of the Directory for Worship. ~~The Presbyterian Mission Agency recommends that this overture be answered with the action on the Directory for Worship.~~

The Presbyterian Mission Agency recommends that this overture be answered with the action on the Directory for Worship. “The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended” [W-3.0409].

Link to Overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6325>