

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

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. Worshipping 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.”

The purpose of this comment is to review 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. 607-617] 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>