

**ITEM H.108
FOR ACTION**

FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY			
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	
D. Worshiping Communities	X	H. Executive Committee	

Subject: Comment on the 222nd General Assembly (2016) – Overture 018 (Business Item #04-07) “On Merging the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly into a Single Entity.” From the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

Recommendation:

That the Executive Committee forward the following comments on Overture 018 (Business Item #04-07) “On Merging the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly into a Single Entity,” to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board with a recommendation to approve and forward to the 222nd General Assembly (2016)

Comment:

The Presbytery of Santa Fe has overtured the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to merge the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board and the Office of the General Assembly in the manner and following a time schedule that is set forth in the Overture. This comment does not seek to weigh in on the topic of agency consolidation, but instead focuses on one line in the overture from Santa Fe Presbytery: “The 222nd General Assembly (2016) directs that at the conclusion of the 223rd General Assembly (2018) the Presbyterian Mission Agency and its Board, the PC(USA), A Corporation, and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly be dissolved.”

Dissolving the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation (“Church Corporation”) is an unnecessary, and possibly very costly, action that should not be taken absent a compelling reason. No compelling reason to dissolve the Church Corporation has been provided in the recommendations. Neither the Office of the General Assembly nor the Presbyterian Mission Agency is a corporation. The Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency conduct all secular activities through the Church Corporation. This is in compliance with the *Book of Order* mandate at G-4.0101, which states in relevant part “*Where permitted by civil law, each presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained and shall determine a method to constitute the board of trustees by its own rule.*”

If the Church Corporation were to be dissolved, a new corporation would have to be created. If the General Assembly wishes to make changes in the Office of the General Assembly or the Presbyterian Mission Agency, a more cost effective alternative would be to leave the Church Corporation intact and determine which functions of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency are redundant or duplicative and consolidate those functions. (This, too, is not a simple process, but it would be less intensive than dissolving the Church Corporation and starting over with each of the church’s secular agreements and relationships.)

Any Church Corporation governance issues can be implemented through changes to the Church Corporation’s Deliverance and Articles of Incorporation with approval from General Assembly and

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changes to the Church Corporation's bylaws with approval from the Presbyterian Mission Agency at the direction of the General Assembly.