

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD

February 3-5, 2016

Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Area

**ITEM B.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
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation		P. Plenary
	C. Leadership		G. Audit		
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee		

Subject: Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry Response To Referrals

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency approve the Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry portion of the Presbyterian Mission Agency report to the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

I. Referrals in Progress

1. *2012 Referral: Item 11-05. On Calling for an End to the Practice of Corporal Punishment in Homes, Schools, and Childcare Facilities. Recommendation 3. Direct the Appropriate General Assembly Committees to Provide Limited Bibliography of Resources Presenting Alternative Effective Methods of Discipline to Corporal Punishment—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 30–31, 1041–44 of the CD; p. 239 of the print copy).*

Response: Final Response will be presented to the 223rd General Assembly (2018)

2. *2012 Referral: Item 11-05. On Calling for an End to Corporal Punishment in Homes, Schools, and Childcare Facilities. Recommendation 4. That the Listed Supporting Documentation Be Posted Online, Hosted by the Child Advocacy Office—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 30–31, 1041–44 of the CD; pp. 239–40 of the print copy).*

Response: Final Response will be presented to the 223rd General Assembly (2018)

3. *2014 Referral: Item 08-14. A Resolution to Address Child/Youth Protection Policies and Resources in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 1. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Create New/Updated Resources Concerning Child/Youth Protection Measures in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) That Can Be Available for Synods, Presbyteries, and Individual Churches. (We Request That These Resources Be from the PC(USA) and Not Just Direction to Other Denominational Resources)—From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (ACWC) (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.40, 43, 531–3; pp. 231–32 of the print copy 2).*

Response: Final Response will be presented to the 223rd General Assembly (2018)

II. Final Response to Referrals

4. *2012 Referral: Item 11-20. A Statement on the Housing and the Mortgage Crisis. Recommendation. MRTI to Report Back to the 221st General Assembly (2014) on Ways for the Church to Respond to the Housing and Mortgage Crisis—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 28, 34, 1118–22 of the CD; p. 253 of the print copy).*

Response: The Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) and its ecumenical partners engaged major banks and financial institutions (some of which had absorbed sub-prime lenders, as part of its regular work on the subject of mortgage servicing and foreclosure avoidance. Immediately after the crisis hit in late 2008, MRTI and its ecumenical partners urged banks to modify loans as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) had done in mid-2008 in its takeover of IndyMac Bank. The Treasury Department was slow during 2009 through 2011 in adequately developing the major federal response, its Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) modification program, and MRTI et al. continued to press banks to use alternative modification programs to cover those borrowers not covered the by the Treasury modifications. Unfortunately, a major portion of these delinquent mortgages from this crisis had been securitized, so MRTI also had to pressure the bank mortgage servicers to provide modifications.

These banks and financial institutions were under intense scrutiny by government officials and regulators, and were subject to legal actions by states. The initial pressure for bank reform came from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve, which received all the background papers written for the ecumenical partners, and they were followed the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010. Public ranking of individual lenders on a consistent basis first came from the 2012 National Mortgage Settlement with 49 State Attorneys General, HUD and the Department of Justice. Shareholder advocacy reinforced this effort, and led to reforms and more transparency.

At the same time, underwriting standards were tightened and lenders eliminated stated income and most sub-prime loans. MRTI has also advocated for reforms in the securitization of mortgage loans, in auto loans, and in other products prone to abuses. Attention to the financial sector has been and will be a key component of MRTI's work.

5. *2012 Referral: Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 1. The MRTI Committee Is Instructed to Request Information and Explanations of Health Insurance Company Policy and Practice on: State and Federal Lobbying Expenditures and Political/Campaign Contributions, Government Subsidies and Profit Margins Related to Provisions of the Healthcare 'Reform' Legislation, Aggregate Data on Increases in Premiums and Deductibles Over the Past Ten Years, Categories and Percentages of Claims Denied, and Percentages of Profits Used in Compensating Top Executives in Comparison with Return to Shareholders—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687–92 of the CD; p. 341 of the print copy).*

2012 Referral: Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 3. MRTI Is Asked to Evaluate the Variance Between Church Principles of Universal Access and Affordability and Corporate Objectives, to Assess the Likelihood of Significant Change in Corporate Behavior, and to Recommend to the GAMC and General Assembly, Including Possible Divestment, That Would Strengthen the Integrity of the Church's Practice—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687–92 of the CD; p. 341 of the print copy).

2012 Referral: Item 21-01. On Instructing MRTI to Study and Report Corporate Practices of Health Insurance Companies and Possible Divestment of Same. Recommendation 4. The GAMC, the Presbyterian Foundation, and the Board of Pensions Are Requested to Report on Their Actions to the 221st and the 222nd General Assembly (2014) and (2016), with an Eye to Guiding Individual Presbyterians, Congregations, and Mid Councils in Relation to Their Own Investment Holdings in This Major Part of the Economy—From the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 64, 1687–92 of the CD; p. 341 of the print copy).

Response: Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has collaborated with ecumenical partners to engage health insurance companies around affordable and accessible health care. Primarily this has focused on increasing participation in the state exchanges as part of the Affordable Care Act. Access to health care, both domestically and internationally, is a key issue for the faith-based investment community. However, MRTI has found no interest among its partners for divestment as a strategy. The engagement process including dialogues, shareholder resolutions and proxy voting is the preferred strategy. Further detailed analysis was not feasible due to financial constraints. For more information on shareholder engagement on health issues, see MRTI's web site at www.pcusa.org/mrti.

6. *2014 Referral: Item 04-04. On Supporting Middle East Peacemaking. Recommendation 5. Call for All Foreign Aid Given by the U.S. Government—Including Aid to Israel and the Palestinian Authority—to Be Comprehensively and Transparently Accounted to the American People and Held to the Same Standards of Compliance with All Applicable Laws—From the Presbytery of New Covenant (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 58–59, 60, 260–67; p. 182 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 04-04. On Supporting Middle East Peacemaking. Recommendation 6. Call for Church Advocacy for Foreign-Aid Accountability to Be Directed Toward Its Universal Adherence Rather Than Targeted for Selective Application to Some Recipients and Not Others—From the Presbytery of New Covenant (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 58–59, 60, 260–67; p. 182 of the print copy).

Response: The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been working through the Faith Forum on Middle East Peace to advocate for accountability in US Foreign aid to all countries in the Middle East. We have sent letters to congress as well as to the administration to call for clear accountability to US laws particularly in aid to Israel and Syrian rebel forces. We have had several meetings with the State Department to begin the process to ensure that military aid to Israel and other countries is in compliance with the Leahy Law.

7. *2014 Referral: Item 04-12. Commissioners' Resolution. On Reaffirming the Rights of Children and Attention to Violence Against Children in Israel and Palestine. Recommendation 4. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Engage in Advocacy and Public Witness for the Human Rights of Children in Palestine and Israel in Relation to the Listed Items (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 60, 62–64, 300–305; pp. 187–88 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Mission Agency has witnessed and advocated for the human rights of children in Palestine and Israel in several ways. The Office of Public Witness (OPW) supported a Congressional briefing on the treatment of Palestinian children. Young Adult Volunteers from the Office of Public Witness led the worship service at an Interfaith Vigil on the International Day for Protection of Children that focused on the issue of Palestinian children in Israeli detention and on the need to protect all children in Israel, Palestine, the United States, and around the world. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations worked with members of the United Nations Security Council on their actions relating to

children in armed conflict, raising specific concerns for children in Israel and Palestine. The Israel-Palestine Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Working Group at the United Nations, of which the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations is a member, sent a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressing deep concern that he failed to include the Israeli Defense Forces and Palestinian armed groups on his list of those who committed grave violations against children in 2014 despite the report of the Special Representative on children in situations of armed conflict that such violations were committed during the 2014 Israeli incursion into Gaza.

8. *2014 Referral: Item 04-12. Commissioners' Resolution. On Reaffirming the Rights of Children and Attention to Violence Against Children in Israel and Palestine. Recommendation 5. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Create Information Documents, Study Guides, or Other Educational Materials to Be Made Available Through Digital Download at the PC (USA) Website, as Well as Links to Materials and Research from Other Organizations (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 60, 62–64, 300–05; pp. 187–88 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Mission Agency provided educational opportunities on the situation of violence against children in Israel and Palestine. The organization Defense for Children – Palestine led a workshop at the 2015 Compassion, Peace, and Justice training day. Speakers at Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations seminars on Israel and Palestine and on children's rights addressed the need to work to end violence against children in Israel and Palestine. Due to the material from other organizations working on this issue, the Presbyterian Mission Agency did not create new materials. Links to informational documents, study guides, research, and other educational materials are available on the Web page of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. Links to these materials are also shared through the social media platforms of various Presbyterian Mission Agency offices.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/un/>

9. *2014 Referral: Item 07-02. The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate and Work Toward Meeting Human Needs, Seeking Justice and Reconciliation, and pursuing Peace Through Interreligious Peacemaking, Disaster Assistance, and Solidarity Efforts That Attend to Respectful Interactions with Persons of Different Cultural and Religious Traditions in Both the United States and International Contexts—From the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 34, 444–53; p. 205 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Mission Agency regularly engages in advocacy and mission that meets human needs, seeks justice, reconciliation and peacemaking in a respectful, interreligious context. Some of the highlights of this ongoing work include:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has adopted a Code of Conduct that guides PDA every time it responds to a disaster.
http://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/codeofconduct.pdf that This Code of Conduct explicitly states that:
 - Aid is given regardless of the race, creed, or nationality of the recipients. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.
 - Aid is not used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.
 - We respect culture and custom.

PDA has responded to the Syrian refugee crisis by providing educational support for Syrian children living in camps in Lebanon. Our ecumenical partner, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria

and Lebanon, is facilitating this response, mindful of cultural and religious differences and sensitive to the trauma these children have experienced.

PDA continues to be engaged in a substantive response in the Philippines (2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan) and the Nepal Earthquake (April 2015) Both of these recovery efforts are serving multiple religious communities.

In Iraq, PDA provided swamp coolers and other shelter-related resources to Yazidi and Sunni refugee camps on the outskirts of Kirkuk, working through the Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk.

- The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program is sponsoring “Mosaic of Peace,” a conference in the Holy Land April 4-16, 2016. The goal of the conference is to engage with Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders, experience contextual theology and study peacemaking practices within the framework of Presbyterian Church (USA) policy.
- <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/mosaic-peace> The majority of the advocacy work carried out by the Office of Public Witness in Washington (OPW) is done through ecumenical and interreligious coalitions. OPW has engaged in significant interreligious advocacy work around trade issues, specifically the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). This work is done through the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment. OPW has also engaged in peacemaking advocacy on drones through the Interfaith Working Group on Drones, including the [Interfaith Drones Conference in Princeton in January 2015](#), the [May 15, 2015 letter to President Obama on behalf of faith leaders expressing concerns with lethal drone use](#). The Interfaith Working Group has also coordinated meetings and helped organize the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare. An interreligious Syria Refugee Working group has just been formed.
- The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations also engages in advocacy related to issues of freedom of religion through the Religious Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Committee and International Religious Freedom Committee.

10. *2014 Referral: Item 08-08. The Gospel from Detroit: Renewing the Church’s Urban Vision. To Refer Item 08-08 to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to Convene an Urban Ministry Roundtable with Groups and Individuals Engaged in Urban Ministry Including, But Not Limited to, ACSWP, ACWC, ACREC, and Racial Ethnic Caucuses for the Purpose of Developing a Method of Fulfilling the Goals of Item 08-08 and to Report to the 222nd General Assembly (2016)—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 40, 42, 503–16; pp. 222–23 of the print copy).*

Response: Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) contracted with a part-time consultant to rebuild the Urban Ministry Roundtable, a network of pastoral leadership engaged in urban ministry. PMA hosted a Leadership/Organizing Team of 11 Presbyterian Church (USA) pastors in Chicago October 26-28, 2015. The Leadership/Organizing Team is planning regional consultations (dates and places not yet confirmed) on “Race, Class and the Current Challenges of Urban Ministry”. PMA developed a website for resource sharing and networking <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/urbanministry>

11. *2014 Referral: Item 08-09. For-Profit Prisons, Jails, and/or Detention Centers Be Added to the List of Companies for Divestment and/or Proscription of Investment Ownership. That the Category of Publicly Traded Corporations That Directly Manage or Operate for-Profit Prisons, Jails, and/or Detention Centers Be Added to the List of Companies from Which the General Assembly Urges Divestment and/or Proscription of Investment Ownership—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 40, 42, 516–17; p. 224 of the print copy).*

Response: Since the General Assembly adopted the policy of divesting and/or proscribing investment ownership in publicly-traded corporations that directly manage or operate for-profit prisons, jails, and/or detention centers, this category has been included in the General Assembly's divestment and/or proscription list. Updated annually, the list currently includes Corrections Corporation of America, The GEO Group, Inc., G4S, the leading U.S. Security Company, and Serco Inc.

12. *2014 Referral: Item 09-05. On a Two-Year Study to Discern How to Advocate for Effective Drug Policies. Recommendation 2. Urge All Publications and Other Communication Vehicles of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Develop Articles, Reports, and Other Materials Designed to Educate, Motivate, and Activate Church Members and Congregants to Learn About the History, Development, and Implementation of U.S. Drug Policies—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 35, 36, 630–35; pp. 236–37 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations attended the Civil Society Hearing on “Preparation for the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Special Session on Drugs” and other events related to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs that will be held during 2016. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations joined the New York Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Committee on Drugs, a global committee of more than 90 NGOs that works to support civil society in engaging with the UN system on international drug policy and practice, facilitating the exchange of information between civil society organizations and UN agencies, member states, and other relevant UN bodies. Information gathered has been shared with the study team and with the wider church through social media.

There have been numerous articles relating to Drug Policy and the overall issue of drugs, addiction and crime published in Unbound, the social justice journal from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ASCWP). A few of them are excerpts from testimonies at the hearings the task force held.

- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/leading-my-own-fight-for-what-will-heal-me/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/the-drug-wars-impact-on-latino-communities/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/violence-human-rights-and-the-drug-war-in-mexico/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/violence-is-itself-the-enemy/>

The following articles also deal pretty specifically with "the history, development, and implementation of US drug policies":

- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/re-examining-our-nations-responses-to-drugs/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/faith-leaders-influencing-the-debate-on-drug-sentencing/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/a-biblical-and-theological-reflection-on-consumption-addiction-and-prejudicial-drug-policy/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/seek-ye-first-the-rat-park/>
- <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/justice-and-responsibility-the-drug-war-in-colombia/>

During the course of 2016, several of these issues will be feature articles on the Presbyterian News Service as well as incorporated into the two existing monthly newsletters for Compassion, Peace and Justice.

13. *2014 Referral: Item 09-05. On a Two-Year Study to Discern How to Advocate for Effective Drug Policies. Recommendation 3. Recommend that the Criminal Justice Network of the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association Focus Criminal Justice Sunday in 2015 on Issues Related to the Impact of Drug Prohibition—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 35, 36, 630–35; pp. 236–37 of the print copy).*

Response: Because national drug policy is currently in a fluid state, the leadership of the Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network (PCJN) is reluctant to develop resources that could be out of date before congregations have a chance to use them. PCJN leaders anticipate working with members of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy’s Drug Policy Reform Study Team and others to address this theme in a future Criminal Justice Sunday resource.

While understanding that changing times require that the majority of planning meetings to be conducted via Skype, GoToMeeting, or conference call, the leadership of PCJN believes that resources could more effectively be developed if funding was available for an initial face to face meeting. Just as the Drug Policy Task Force determined that it was necessary to conduct some of its meetings in person as it created a comprehensive policy document, so too does the PCJN leadership believe that the development of denominational resources would benefit from at least one face to face meeting.

14. *2014 Referral: Item 09-06. On Advocating for Financial and Political Reform. Recommendation 1. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for the Following: 1. Financial and Political Reforms (a) Aimed at Eliminating and/or Regulating Closely the Practices of the Financial Sector, Which Caused the Great Recession; and (b) Affirmative Efforts by the Department of Treasury, Securities and Exchange Commission, and Other Regulatory Bodies to Protect Ordinary Citizens, to Revise Bankruptcy Laws to Protect Borrowers and Those Holding ‘Underwater’ Mortgages, and to Enable National, State, and Local Efforts to Provide Refinancing Through Repurchasing and Restructuring Mortgages and Public Capital Projects—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 36, 635–38; p. 238 of the print copy).*

Response: Office of Public Witness engaged in advocacy to support the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (created by Dodd-Frank, but languished under Congressional inaction over the confirmation of the new director). Office of Public Witness Director has also met several times with the newly appointed Director, Richard Cordray, to discuss a variety of methods to protect consumers from financial predators. The meetings have largely focused around predatory lending.

15. *2014 Referral: Item 09-06. On Advocating for Financial and Political Reform. Recommendation 2. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for Appropriate Investigations and Prosecutions of Individuals, Companies, and Industries Engaged in Fraudulent Behaviors, Regardless of Position or Size, That Justice May Be Applied Equally to All. This Will Include Advocating for Strategies That Address the Lack of Prosecution of the Individuals and Financial Institutions Responsible for the 2008 Meltdown of the U.S. Economy—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 36, 635–38; p. 238 of the print copy).*

Response: The Office of Public Witness has been an active participant in the Faithful Democracy whose goal is to reduce the undue influence of private money in politics.

16. *2014 Referral: Item 09-06. On Advocating for Financial and Political Reform. Recommendation 3. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for Campaign Finance Reform and Other Efforts to Reduce the Influence of Special Interest Money in Politics (Including That of the Financial Sector, the*

Gun Lobby, the Oil Industry, Etc.)—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 36, 635–38; p. 238 of the print copy).

Response: Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been heavily engaged in advocacy in support of a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens' United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC) and other campaign finance reform efforts. The OPW actively participates in the interfaith coalition "Faithful Democracy" whose goal is to reduce the undue influence of private money in politics. As of May 2015, the OPW has published nine blog posts and two action alerts on campaign finance reform. In October 2014, OPW staff person wrote an article on money in politics for Presbyterian Women's Horizons magazine and in May 2015, we hosted a conversation on money in politics on <http://ecclesio.com/> that comprised five articles examining the role of money in politics through different lenses. Finally, the Director co-authored an op-ed on campaign finance and immigrant detention in the Houston Chronicle in May 2015.

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP), working in collaboration with the Office of Public Witness (OPW), has developed an addition to the 2010 resolution that will be distributed electronically in January 2016 to all presbyteries and synods and through other channels across the church.

17. *2014 Referral: Item 09-07. On Gun Violence Prevention. Recommendation 1. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to a. Provide Models for Congregational and Local Ecumenical Forums to Explore the Dynamics of Gun Violence in Their Areas, and to Select Appropriate Initiatives for Witness and Action in Their Communities, and b. Assist in the Formation of Support, Healing, and Advocacy Groups for Those Who Have Experienced Gun Violence in Their Families—From the Presbytery of Hudson River (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 32, 36–37, 638–42; pp. 238–40 of the print copy).*

Response: Several model forums have been conducted across the church since the 221st General Assembly. Congregational and mid-council forums have occurred as well as ecumenical and community forums. Many have been modeled on the forum suggested in the screening toolkit for "Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence," which brings together an array of community leaders to address the implications of gun violence from diverse perspectives. The 4-session study guide for "Trigger" as well as a series of studies produced by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF) continue to be available and utilized in study groups. A Presbyterian Church (USA) (PCUSA) gun violence network is under development with plans to begin sometime in 2016.

Our PCUSA camps and conference centers have conducted camps for victims and survivors of gun violence. Youth and collegiate conferences have conducted workshops for those impacted by gun violence, including the 2015 Montreat Collegiate Conference "Peace Bound" which included Virginia Tech students. More needs to be done in 2016 to fulfill this referral, including an adaptation of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's (PDA) work on trauma recovery to families impacted by gun violence.

18. *2014 Referral: Item 09-11. Affirming the Importance of Maternal and Child Nutrition Over 1000 Days. Recommendation 6. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for Policies That Promote Good Nutrition in the 1,000 Days Window—From the Presbytery of National Capital (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 38, 649–50; pp. 241–42 of the print copy).*

Response: Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) through our Office of Public Witness (OPW) has advocated for maintaining the level of international development assistance (through which 1000 Days is funded) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits within the USA. WIC, in particular, targets nutrition for children in the 1000-

Day window. We have advocated for reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act. Presbyterian Church (USA) was also part of a Coalition Statement of support for the Global Food Security Act in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and we continue to do advocacy on that issue.

19. *2014 Referral: Item 09-12. On Providing a Trauma Crisis Counseling Consultation to Train in Best Practices in Caring for Survivors of Homicide Victims. To Commit the Necessary Financial and Programmatic Resources to Provide for a Trauma Crisis Counseling Consultation Within Twelve Months of the 221st General Assembly (2014). The Attendees Would Be Trained by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Mental Health Professionals, and Community Stakeholders in Some of the Best Practices for Caring for the Bereaved Survivors of Homicide Victims and traumatized Community Members—From the Presbytery of Nevada (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 38, 650–52; p. 242 of the print copy).*

Response: Church wide trauma consultation was planned, staffed and scheduled as a Pre-Conference event prior to Big Tent. Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) (through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Mid-Council office) advertised the conference among all Mid-Council partners, with special attention to communities that have experienced high levels of public violence. Regrettably, enrollment was extremely low. The event was therefore re-envisioned as a series of TED-Talk style short videos that will be made available Church wide, at no cost to pastors, congregations, and mid councils. The talks incorporate trauma professionals teaching best practices for non-clinical support and intervention following trauma, as well as congregational, community and liturgical strategies to support wholeness and healing following trauma. Additionally PDA and Presbyterian Camps and Conference Centers have initiated a model for "healing camps" to support children and youth after public violence or trauma and are establishing a Church wide network of camp able to support such initiatives in their regions after traumatic violence affecting children.

20. *2014 Referral: Item 09-15. A Resolution to Educate Against and Help Prevent Voter Suppression. Recommendation 3. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to prepare Educational Materials (Web-Based or Print) for Use in Congregations and Mid Councils Specifically on How Voter Suppression Impacts Our Democracy Theologically, Ecclesiologically, and Culturally—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 38–39, 659–63; p. 244 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 09-15. A Resolution to Educate Against and Help Prevent Voter Suppression. Recommendation 5. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Lift Up Voters' Rights in Election Years 2014 and 2016 Through Its Communications Channels and Recognize the Need to Educate the Grassroots on the Effects of Voter Suppression on Church and Society—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 38–39, 659–63; p. 244 of the print copy).

Response: The Office of Public Witness (OPW) created a "Get Out the Vote" Action Alert for the 2014 Mid-term election which was also shared via Unbound, a bi-monthly online journal published by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) which advocates for and promotes Christian social justice issues. This alert can be viewed at the following link:

<http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/today-is-election-day-get-out-the-vote> .

OPW is currently writing a congregational study guide on voter suppression titled "We Shall Not Be Moved: Advocacy in the New Age of Voter Suppression". It will be housed on the "resources" section of the OPW website <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/washington/about-us/> . As a participating sponsor for the Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference held in April 2016, Compassion, Peace and Justice has made suppression of political rights a key component to its training

day, which is part of a larger three-day conference devoted to advocating for a more transparent and participatory government. Information on the conference can be found at <http://officeofpublicwitness.blogspot.com/2015/11/register-now-for-advocacy-training.html>.

The Office of Public Witness wrote curriculum for a discussion series on voter suppression for use in congregations and mid-councils. The OPW also released and publicized a statement on the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, and a Voting Rights Manifesto. In May 2015, an OPW staff member wrote an expose for Horizons magazine on the 50th anniversary of the act and the Supreme Court decision that gutted it.

21. *2014 Referral: Item 09-15. A Resolution to Educate Against and Help Prevent Voter Suppression. Recommendation 6. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Develop Advocacy Strategies to Work Against Voter Suppression and for Greater Freedom in Voting and Access to Voting, and to Share News of These Efforts Across the Church—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 38–39, 659–63; p. 244 of the print copy).*

Response: OPW is currently writing a congregational study guide on voter suppression titled “We Shall Not Be Moved: Advocacy in the New Age of Voter Suppression” to engage congregations in local, regional, and national voter turnout efforts and prevent voter suppression. It will be housed on the “resources” section of the OPW website

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/washington/about-us/>. OPW staff and young adults wrote a 5-part educational series for ecclesio.com on the injustices of corporate money in politics. <http://www.ecclesio.com/2015/05/>

22. *2014 Referral: Item 09-16. Tax Justice: A Christian Response to a New Gilded Age. Recommendation II.1. The 221st General Assembly (2014) Invites All Members, Congregations, and Councils and Directs the Appropriate Officers of the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Encourage Study and Discussion of This Report and to Represent Its Positions in the Consideration of Tax and Related Legislation at All Governmental Levels, and Directs the Stated Clerk to Communicate This Report Electronically and Through a Limited Number of Print Copies to Members, Ecumenical Partners, and Governmental Bodies, with Guidance from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 32, 39, 663–96; pp. 244–51 of the print copy).*

Response: The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) has distributed this policy primarily by on-line link to the booklet and 3 page summary of key positions: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/tax-justice-christian-response-second-gilded-age/> It has been distributed to church partners in the National Council of Churches, to college, university, and seminary professors in the Social Ethics Network, provided in limited copies at the Presbyterian Training Day and Ecumenical Advocacy Days, the Polity Conference, and Big Tent, where a workshop on the resource was provided. There has been some on-line discussion of the report among those involved in tax policy. ACSWP celebrates the creation of an informal Presbyterian Tax Justice Network of interested persons in New York City, Long Island, and Boston presbyteries. In addition, a class on tax justice has been taught at Harvard Divinity School for the past two years, and the report has been presented at a symposium at Loyola Marymount University.

23. *2014 Referral: Item 09-23. Commissioners’ Resolution. On Requesting the Release from Prison of Mr. Oscar Lopez Rivera. The 221st General Assembly (2014) Referred Item 09-23 to the Presbyterian*

Mission Agency and the Office of the Stated Clerk for Further Study and Discernment and, if Appropriate, Take Timely Action (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 40, 742–43; p. 254 of the print copy).

Response: The Office of Public Witness (OPW) Director Rev. J Herbert Nelson co-authored a letter with Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons to President Obama urging him to commute the sentence of Oscar Lopez Rivera.

24. *2014 Referral: Item 11-02. On Turning Attention to the Plight of the Church That Is Suffering Due to Sectarian Violence and Persecution in Egypt and Other Parts of the World. Recommendation 4. Direct the Office for Public Witness and the Presbyterian Office at the United Nations to Inform and Equip Presbyterians to Advocate for Just Peace Throughout the Middle East—From the Presbytery of Pittsburgh (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65–66, 823–26; pp. 261–62 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 11-02. On Turning Attention to the Plight of the Church That Is Suffering Due to Sectarian Violence and Persecution in Egypt and Other Parts of the World. Recommendation 6. Calling on the Government of the United States to Examine Its Role in the Middle East, to Seek to Ensure That Future Involvements in the Region Be Consistent with the Promotion of Justice and Freedom for All, Including Religious Liberty, and ‘to Ensure That Military Intervention of Any Kind Is Undertaken as a “Last Resort” and Reflects a High Consensus Among Democratic Nations That It May Serve a “Just Peace”’—From the Presbytery of Pittsburgh (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65–66, 823–26; pp. 261–62 of the print copy).

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) has advocated for just peace in the Middle East with permanent and elected members of the United Nations Security Council. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations has attended human rights briefings held by United Nations Economic and Social Council that focus on a just peace in throughout the Middle East. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations participates in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) committees that focus on religious freedom, religion, and human rights in the Middle East, all conditions of a just peace. Through social media, seminars, and presentations by persons from the Middle East, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations has informed and equipped Presbyterians to advocate for a just peace.

The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has sent action alerts and provided information through social media to members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to inform and help them to advocate for peacemaking in the Middle East, particular in regards to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq as well as Israel and Palestine. We have also held webinars and briefings concerning those conflicts.

Through various coalitions, including the Faith Forum on Middle East Peace and Churches for Middle East Peace, the Office of Public Witness have advocated with congress and the administration for non-violent diplomatic solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq and Israel/Palestine, and for a non-violent negotiated settlement to the conflict with Iran. This has been done in visits to congress and the administration as well as letters and action alerts to constituents.

25. *2014 Referral: Item 11-03. On Removing Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism. Recommendation 1. Petition the President of the United States and the U.S. Department of State to Remove Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism as Soon as Possible—From the Presbytery of Long Island (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65, 66, 826–27; p. 262 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 11-03. On Removing Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism. Recommendation 3. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for This Result in Cooperation

with the Appropriate Denominational and Ecumenical Organizations in Washington—From the Presbytery of Long Island (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65, 66, 826–27; p. 262 of the print copy).

Response: The Office of Public Witness (OPW) met with members of the administration including the State Department and the National Security Council to encourage the removal of Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. We sent letters to Secretary Kerry as well as to members of congress urging them to support this action. On May 29, 2015 Cuba was taken of the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

26. *2014 Referral: Item 11-05. On Lifting All Travel Restrictions for U.S. Citizens Traveling to Cuba. Recommendation 1. Petition the president of the United States, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control to Remove All of the Restrictions on Travel by U.S. Citizens to Cuba, Which It Is Legally Possible for Them to Do, and to Openly and Vigorously Advocate to Congress the Repeal of All Laws Restricting the Constitutional Right of U.S. Citizens to Travel to Cuba—From the Presbytery of St. Augustine (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65, 66, 830–31; p. 263 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 11-05. On Lifting All Travel Restrictions for U.S. Citizens Traveling to Cuba. Recommendation 2. Petition the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to Work to Repeal All of the Laws Restricting Travel to That Nation—From the Presbytery of St. Augustine (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65, 66, 830–31; p. 263 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-05. On Lifting All Travel Restrictions for U.S. Citizens Traveling to Cuba. Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for This Change in Policy in Cooperation with Other Appropriate Denominational and Ecumenical Organizations in Washington—From the Presbytery of St. Augustine (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65, 66, 830–31; p. 263 of the print copy).

Response: The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been continuously advocating for the lifting of the travel ban to Cuba. Through work with the Latin America Working Group and the Ecumenical Working Group on Cuba we have participated in meetings with congress, sent out action alerts and signed on to letters advocating for Congress to lift the travel ban. We also participated in Cuba Summit sponsored by Latin America Working Group (LAWG) and Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). We have also helped set up several meetings for delegations from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and our Cuban partners to advocate the lifting of the travel ban.

27. *2014 Referral: Item 11-08. Western Sahara: Occupied, Non-Self-Governing Territory, and Test Case for International Law. Recommendation 1. Urge the U. S. Department of State and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to Continue to Call Upon the Community of Nations to Support Self-Determination for the People of the Region Known as Western Sahara in Accord with Prior UN Resolutions and Determinations of International Courts—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.15, 67, 840–46; pp. 265–66 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, in consultation with the Stated Clerk, sent the requested letter to the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

28. *2014 Referral: Item 11-08. Western Sahara: Occupied, Non-Self-Governing Territory, and Test Case for International Law. Recommendation 2. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Work with Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners and Other Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Support of These Efforts on Behalf of Western Sahara, and to Give Attention as Feasible to Justice Issues in Other*

Non-Self-Governing Trust Territories, Territorial Possessions, and Occupied Territories—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.15, 67, 840–46; pp. 265–66 of the print copy).

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations has worked with faith-based and secular partners to monitor the situation in Western Sahara and other Non-Self-Governing Trust Territories, Territorial Possessions, and Occupied Territories, advocating for justice when the opportunity presented itself.

29. *2014 Referral: Item 11-08. Western Sahara: Occupied, Non-Self-Governing Territory, and Test Case for International Law. Recommendation 3. Direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to Monitor the Activities of International Corporations in Western Sahara in Which the Foundation or Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) May Be an Investor, Including the Potash Corporation, Initiating Correspondence on the Impacts of That Firm’s Mineral Extraction, and Recommending Appropriate Further Corporate Social Responsibility Measures Consistent with the Concerns Noted Above—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.15, 67, 840–46; pp. 265–66 of the print copy; pp. 265–66 of the print copy).*

Response: The Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) Committee has integrated Western Sahara into its human rights work, and regularly monitors corporate activity in the country and its territorial waters.

30. *2014 Referral: Item 11-08. Western Sahara: Occupied, Non-Self-Governing Territory, and Test Case for International Law. Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, to Monitor Matters of Human Rights and Religious Liberty in Western Sahara and Other Countries Across the Northern Africa region Where Ethnic and Religious Tensions and Undemocratic Governance May Threaten International Peace and Security, and Make Recommendations on Public Policy and Economic Witness as Appropriate—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.15, 67, 840–46; pp. 265–66 of the print copy).*

Response: The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) has supported the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations in its monitoring the process of The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) of the UN, which continues to support a referendum of self-determination for the inhabitants of Western Sahara. The Presbyterian Mission Agency World Mission ministries and the Middle East Staff Team follow different ethnic and religious struggles across Northern Africa from Northern Nigeria and Cameroon, through Libya and South Sudan, to Egypt, Somalia, and Yemen.

31. *2014 Referral: Item 11-09. A Resolution on Behalf of Dominicans of Haitian Descent and any Others Impacted by the Decision 168/13 of the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic. Recommendation 1. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to a. Engage in Advocacy for International and Local Support in Favor of Dominicans of Haiti Descent and Any Others Impacted by the Decision 168/13 of the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic, b. Speak Out Against Statelessness and Deportation for Dominicans of Haitian Descent and Any Others Impacted by This Law, c. Advocate in Favor of Equal Treatment and Access to Basic Human Rights, Privileges, and Public Services for All Dominicans Regardless of the Nationality of Their Ancestors—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67, 846–47; p. 266 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) has monitored the situation faced by Dominicans of Haitian descent. The ministry has worked with ecumenical partners in the United

Nations (UN) community to advocate on this matter. With these partners, the ministry co-sponsored an event advocating for the human rights of all Dominicans. Staff from the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations raised concerns about Dominicans of Haitian descent in a meeting with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The Office of Public Witness (OPW) participates in the Haiti Working Group, an interfaith working group chaired by Church World Service. We have signed on to letters to congress and the administration lifting up the rights of Haitians in the Dominican Republic (DR) and have partnered with World Mission in promoting a day of prayer and action for Dominicans of Haitian Descent. We have also partnered with the PMUN and World Mission in participating in high level meetings with the administration and at the United Nations.

32. *2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation A.3. Urges the United States Congress to Pass Legislation Governing Military Drones. These Laws Should Articulate Procedures That Put Checks on Executive Power and Establish Civilian Oversight.—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation A.4. Urges the U.S. to Make Public and Submit Its Rules for Military Drones to Institutions of the International Legal Community for Analysis and Evaluation. Together with Other Nations, We May Develop International Conventions Governing Their Use and Prevent a ‘Drone Race’—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation A.5. In the Absence of Conventions Outlawing Drone Use in Combat or Counterterrorism, Urges That Targeted Killings of Suspected Terrorists Be Given More Effective Judicial and Congressional Review Through the Use of Warrants, Advocates for the Accused, and Regular After-the-Fact Public Reporting by Any and All Secret Courts, so That Elected Bodies May Evaluate the Costs and Benefits of Counterterrorism Measures and Find Alternatives, and so That No One Person, Even a President Acting in Military Capacity, Could Order the Killing or Indefinite Detention of a Suspected Enemy Exempt from Judicial Review—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation A.6. Urges, in Cases Where the Proposed Targeted Killing of Suspects Amounts to the Declaration of War, That Congressional Approval (Beyond Surveillance Court Approval) Be Sought, as for Other Wars, and That Any Such Declaration or Approval Include Tax Revenues Sufficient to Cover All Costs Expected from These Military Operations—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation A.8. Instructs the Appropriate Offices of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly, in Ecumenical and Interfaith Cooperation Whenever Possible, to Advocate for Such Legal Protections of Human Rights and Regulation of Military Drones (UAVs), and to Produce Resources to Interpret and Assist Discussion and Exploration of the Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft and Related Technologies—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation B.2. Recommends That the United States Congress, Other Federal, State, and/or Local Agencies, as Appropriate, Pass Legislation and/or Regulations Governing the Use of Domestic Drones so That Constitutional Rights Are Upheld—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation B.3. Urges the Adoption of Policies That Would Prevent Domestic Drones from Being Weaponized—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-10. Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance. Recommendation C.2. Recommends the United States Congress Pass Legislation to Increase Accountability of Surveillance Agencies and Commercial Contractors Engaged in Surveillance.—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 67–68, 847–60; pp. 267–69 of the print copy).

Response: The Office of Public Witness (OPW) helped to plan and participated in the Interfaith Conference on Drones in January of 2015. The conference brought together faith leaders from across the country to learn and then take action concerning the United States' use of drones. The OPW is an active member of the Interfaith Working Group on Drones. Through this coalition we have sent letters, action alerts, and held meetings and briefings with congress and the administration advocating the items in resolution 11-10.

33. *2014 Referral: Item 11-11. Risking Peace in a Violent World: Affirmations for Presbytery Consideration. Recommendation 5. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Continue to Help Interpret the Discernment Process Outlined in Recommendations 1.–3.—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 68–69, 860–87; pp. 269–70 of the print copy).*

Response: Peacemaking and ACSWP staff persons prepared a summary document for presbyteries that included an overview of the discernment process, the action of the Assembly, a brief theological basis, and summary rationales for each of the five affirmations. We worked with the OGA to create an online reporting form for presbyteries to log their votes and comments. We contacted presbyteries to encourage them to docket time to review the affirmations. In several cases, presbyteries consulted with us for guidance prior to their meetings and/or we attended their meetings. We continue to interpret the Five Affirmations even as the report to the 222nd General Assembly is prepared.

34. *2014 Referral: Item 11-11. Risking Peace in a Violent World: Affirmations for Presbytery Consideration. Recommendation 6. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Work with the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy as It Develops Resources and Assists Networks to Support International Peacemaking on Current and Emerging Challenges Such as South Sudan and Areas in Need of Reconciliation and Reconstruction Such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Colombia, While Addressing Domestic Peacemaking in Such Areas as Gun Violence, Violence in Families, and Concern for Returning Veterans—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 68–69, 860–87; pp. 269–70 of the print copy).*

Response: In 2014 and 2015 International Peacemakers were invited from our partners in South Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Colombia, Rwanda, South Africa and other countries engaged in reconciliation and reconstruction efforts. Many of these peacemakers met with our Presbyterian Church (USA) mission networks to support and strengthen these partnerships.

35. *2014 Referral: Item 11-12. On Helping to Remedy the Tragic Conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recommendation 2. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Advocate for Public Policy That Is Consistent with the Objectives Set Out in Recommendation 1, Building on Existing Treaties and Encouraging International Cooperation, Collective Security, and Accountable Monitoring Processes for the DRC and Those of Its Neighbors Facing Similar Threats—From the Presbytery of Boston (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 69, 887–90; pp. 270–71 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) advocated with members of the United Nations Security Council guided by this policy and in consultation with World Mission staff, the Congo Mission Network and our church partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Staff from the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations participated in a World Council of Churches consultation on the Democratic Republic of Congo and shared the information from that consultation with Presbyterian Mission Agency staff members and the Congo Mission Network.

The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has been advocating for support for a peaceful end to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo through work with the Advocacy Network on Africa. We have also been providing staff support to the Congo Mission Network's Advocacy Committee. Our Young Adult Volunteer is producing a congregational resource which addresses the major issues in Democratic Republic of Congo particularly sexual- and gender-based violence, the recruitment of child soldiers, conflict mineral and the extractives industry and support for improving the educational system assistance the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to rebuild and strengthen the country's educational system. We have been particularly focused on the extractive industry and have signed letters and made hill visits with the Publish What You Pay coalition.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/washington/washington-report-presbyterians/>

36. *2014 Referral: Item 11-12. On Helping to Remedy the Tragic Conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recommendation 3. Direct Mission Responsibility Through Investment to Study the Merits, Costs, and Logistics of Making the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) “Conflict-Free” with Regard to Investments in Extractive Industries by Its Agencies and to Report Its Findings to 222nd General Assembly (2016), and to Initiate Usual Processes of Corporate Engagement with Firms Operating or Trading with the DRC—From the Presbytery of Boston (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 69, 887–90; pp. 270–71 of the print copy).*

Response: Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) with its ecumenical partners has engaged corporations on their relationship with minerals from conflict regions. It should be noted that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), after considerable public pressure, now requires companies to disclose information on the subject in their annual filing of the 10-K report to the SEC. MRTI and its partners remain vigilant about efforts to eliminate that requirement. MRTI believes that its continuation of such work is the best strategy at present.

37. *2014 Referral: Item 11-13. A Resolution on Developing a Comprehensive Social Witness Policy on Human Trafficking as a Human Rights Issue. Recommendation 3. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Assist the Reference and Study Task Group in the Research Process—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 69, 890–92; p. 271 of the print copy).*

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations hosted a meeting of the study task group at the United Nations and made connections with human trafficking experts from the United

Nations system and civil society groups. Staff from the ministry has provided information to the study task group as requested.

38. *2014 Referral: Item 11-14. Resolution on Sexual Violence within the U.S. Military Services: A 2014 Human Rights Update. Recommendation 2. Commend Legislative and Military Leaders Involved in Developing Policies to Eliminate Sexual Violence within the Armed Services, Including a. Through g.—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 69–70, 892–97; pp. 271–72 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 11-14. Resolution on Sexual Violence within the U.S. Military Services: A 2014 Human Rights Update. Recommendation 3. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Office of Public Witness, and Encourage the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, to Urge Legislative and Military Leaders Involved in Developing Policies to Eliminate Sexual Violence within the Armed Services by Doing a. Through c.—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 69–70, 892–97; pp. 271–72 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-14. Resolution on Sexual Violence within the U.S. Military Services: A 2014 Human Rights Update. Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Support the Implementation of Policies to Prevent Sexual Violence by U.S. and Other Military Personnel Engaged in Joint Jurisdictions Such as United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping and North American Treaty Organization (NATO), Both Within These Forces and Among Vulnerable Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Civilian Populations—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 65, 69–70, 892–97; pp. 271–72 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 11-15. On Encouraging Use of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation. Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Maintain Current Information on the Status of Companies That Have Signed the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and to Continue to Partner with and Support ECPAT-USA—From the Presbytery of New York City (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 70, 897–900; pp. 272–73 of the print copy).

Response: A summary of policies and links to specific policies within the U.S. military are as follows:

SUMMARY AND COMPILATION

Summary and Compilation of Military Sexual Assault Policies.

<http://usawc.libguides.com/content.php?pid=582097&sid=4798135>

U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. USAF Policy Directive 90-60 dtd May 21, 2015. <http://www.sexualassaultpreventionresponse.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-150105-015.pdf>

U.S. Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Instruction 90-6001 dtd 21 May 2015.

http://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_cvs/publication/afi90-6001/afi90-6001.pdf

U.S. ARMY

U.S. Army Command Policy. U.S. Army Regulation 600-20 dtd September 20, 2012.

http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/r600_20.pdf

U.S. COAST GUARD

U.S. Coast Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. COMDINST M1754.10D (Series), April 2012.

http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/1000-1999/CIM_1754_10D.pdf

U.S. NAVY

U.S. Navy Policy on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. OPNAVINST 1752.1C dtd 13 August 2015.

<http://www.navy.mil/docs/OPNAVINST-1752-1C.pdf>

SECNAV Instruction 1752.4B dtd 08 August 2013.

<http://doni.daps.dla.mil/Directives/01000%20Military%20Personnel%20Support/01-700%20Morale,%20Community%20and%20Religious%20Services/1752.4B.pdf>

39. *2014 Referral: Item 11-18. Commissioners' Resolution. On Concern, Prayer, and Action for Syria and Iraq. Recommendation 4. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Other Presbyterians and Congregations to Advocate for the United States and Other Governments to Do What Is Possible to Mediate a Just and Peaceful Settlement of Those Conflicts (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 71, 905–08) ; p. 275 of the print copy.*

Response: The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations advocated for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq with ambassadors of member states of the United Nations Security Council. This advocacy took place through the ministry's participation in the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Working Group on the Security Council and in consultation with other offices of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and our church partners in Syria and Iraq.

The Office of Public Witness (OPW) has continued to call for a non-violent diplomatic solution to the conflict in Syria and Iraq. We have sent letters, met with members of Congress and the administration and sent out action alerts advocating for a peaceful end to the conflict.

40. *2014 Referral: Item 15-01. On Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies. Refer the Subject Matter to the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) for Action and discernment in Accordance with Its Long-Standing and Detailed Procedures to Engage with Individual Corporations to Advance Their Actions in Support of Important Social Policy Issues—From the Presbytery of Boston (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 56, 1013–21; p. 319 of the print copy).*

Response: This referral is answered by the report with recommendations “Mission Responsibility Through Investment Report and Recommendations to the 222nd General Assembly (2016): On divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies”. Refer to item (item # to be inserted by OGA).

III. Reports with Recommendations – Under separate cover

IV. Reports without Recommendations - None