

**ITEM B.105
FOR INFORMATION**

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. Worshipping Communities		H. Executive Committee	

Subject: World Mission Ministry Response to Referrals

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the World Mission Ministry portion of the Board report to the 222nd GA (2016).

I. Referrals in Progress: None

II. Final Response to Referrals:

1. *2014 Referral: Item 04-13. Commissioners' Resolution. On a Commitment to Prayer for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. Recommendation 4. Facilitators Shall Be Directed to Resources from the Reconciliation Program of Presbyterian World Mission and the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Interfaith Relations Office That Promote Constructive Conversation and Meaningful Dialogue (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 13, 64, 306-08; pp. 188-89 of the print copy).*

Response: A variety of resources have been made available on the PC(USA) website, <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/interfaith/interfaith-resources/>, as well as in print and periodical publications, including several articles in *Presbyterians Today*, *Presbyterian News Service*, and the spring issue of *Mission Crossroads*. World Mission staff and PMA interfaith relations staff have been available for consultation.

2. *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 5. Direct Presbyterian World Mission and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to Consult with Mission Partners in the Middle East, and Seek Increased Financial Support Through Church-Wide Appeals to Support Mission Partners' Efforts to Provide Relief for Christian Refugees in/from the Region—From the Presbytery of Pittsburgh (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65-66, 823-26; pp. 261-62 of the print copy).*

Response: World Mission and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance staff have been in consultation with Presbyterian churches in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, and have provided support for their relief programs, including rebuilding houses in Homs, Syria, and providing electric generators for internally displaced people in Iraq. World Mission has planned a few connectional trips to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Palestine-Israel for PC(USA) constituents to help establish congregation-to-congregation relationships and collaboration in ministry. More than ten PCUSA mission coworkers serve in the Middle East with sister denominations in a variety of ministries.

3. *2014 Referral: Item 11-07. On Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Recommendation 4. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to a. Encourage Appropriate Observance of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Designating Sunday April 26, 2015, as the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration Day in Presbyterian Churches Including the Preparation of Educational and Liturgical Resources, and Other Memorials to Be Made Available on the Web at Least Two Months Prior to 4/26/2015; b. Encourage the United States to Endorse the Highest Human Rights Standards for All Agencies and Actions of the United States Government; c. Work Cooperatively with Other Churches and Communion in Both Advocacy and Encouraging Appropriate Artistic, Musical, and Other Cultural Forms of Remembrance—From the Presbytery of Los Ranchos (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp.65, 67, 835–40; pp. 264–65 of the print copy).*

Response: Complete resources for education, liturgy, and wider engagement were released on the web for all congregations starting January 2015 leading up to commemoration of the Armenian genocide centenary on April 26 (<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/armenian-genocide/2015>). Observance was encouraged all year. At a Jinishian Memorial Program event with interchurch partners in June, the City of Los Angeles officially recognized the PCUSA for supporting the Armenian community as the first Protestant denomination to acknowledge the genocide. The "America, We Thank You" campaign also gave tribute to Presbyterian aid and human rights advocacy along with other churches during WWI. The Jinishian Memorial Program hosted an ecumenical pilgrimage study tour to Armenia through World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Seminary in October.

4. *2014 Referral: Item 11-17. Commissioners' Resolution. On Iran. Recommendation 7. Directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Nurture Relationships That the PC (USA) Shares with the Churches in Iran Through Our Common Membership in Ecumenical Bodies; Also to Continue to Look for Ways of Supporting and Building Relationships with the Christian Communities in Iran (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 15, 71, 903–05; pp. 274–75 of the print copy).*

Response: World Mission continues to maintain relationship with the Evangelical Church in Iran (ECI), which was established by Presbyterian missionaries starting in 1834. Direct communication with ECI is very difficult because of U.S.–Iran relations. Endowments funds designated for ministry of ECI are available but have been awaiting license from the U.S. Government Office of Foreign Assets Control.

5. *2014 Referral: Item 14-02. Educate a Child, Transform the World. Recommendation 3. Launch a Churchwide Initiative That Will Inspire, Equip, and connect Our Congregations, Mid Councils, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Improve the Quality of Education for 1,000,000 Children in the U.S. and Globally Over the Next Four Years—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 44, 45, 996–98; p. 315 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 14-02. Educate a Child, Transform the World. Recommendation 6. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Shape and Guide This Initiative, Developing Tangible Metrics to Determine Success and Impact, and to Report Back to the 222nd General Assembly (2016), Sharing Progress Made and Identifying Strategies for Deeper Engagement in 2016–18—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 44, 45, 996–98; p. 315 of the print copy)

Response: The “Educate a Child, Transform the World” initiative continues in collaboration with Compassion, Peace and Justice (domestic component) and World Mission (international component). The international component led by Frank Dimmock, catalyst addressing the root causes of global poverty, was launched at General Assembly 2014. The initiative has its own website (pcusa.org/global-poverty), webinar ([youtube.com/watch?v=42Q_cRrCPNw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42Q_cRrCPNw&feature=youtu.be)), Facebook page

([facebook.com/GlobalPovertyPCUSA](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPovertyPCUSA)) and blog (pcusa.org/blogs/global-poverty). It has been featured in various articles that relate stories and practices of partnerships in education. Projects are being developed with global partners in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, strengthening quality education for many children. The national component was launched in April 2015 at Compassion, Peace, and Justice (CPJ) Training Day in Washington, D.C. Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner was hired as a consultant.

The question of developing and utilizing metrics to evaluate the impact of the initiative has required significant research and thoughtful reflection. Measuring quality learning is a challenge that continues to confront education experts globally. World Mission will collect standard output indicators, provided by ministries of education in partner countries, and indirect measures related to partner education programs. Examples of this would include: numbers of children receiving scholarships, training and mentoring of teachers, upgrading school infrastructures, developing and utilizing child protection policies, etc. The national component of this initiative will utilize three distinct styles of metrics: Baseline Metrics; Contextual Metrics; and Contact (or Participatory) Metrics.

The initiative's team members are currently seeking to foster deeper engagement in 2016-2018 through a variety of means, including an "Educate a Child Toolkit." <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit/> Deeper engagement has already been fostered and will continue to be fostered through social media, webinars, workshops, leadership training events, and other measures of support for congregations in new or existing educational ministries both within the US and globally.

6. *2014 Referral: Item 14-02. Educate a Child, Transform the World. Recommendation 7. Urge Those Developing This Initiative and Its Metrics to Build Upon Values, Traditions, and Analysis Embodied in Previous General Assembly Policy on Public Education and the Impacts of Poverty, and to Consider Ways That This Initiative Continues the Work of Child Advocacy Approved by Previous Assemblies—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 44, 45, 996–98; p. 315 of the print copy).*

Response: This initiative is firmly rooted in the analysis, values, and recommendations of the 2010 social witness policy "Loving our Neighbors: Equity and Quality in Public Education". One of the Presbyterians convened at the Proctor Institute in July 2015 was a member of the task force that developed that policy, and he continues to work with the national component's staff team.

The 2010 public education policy is made available as one of the very first suggested resources for study and reflection. Other resources from past PC(USA) child advocacy also continue to be distributed via the website, including worship resources from the Year of the Child at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/> and <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/resources/>. People involved with the Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network (PCAN) and more general with the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association (PHEWA) have been involved in conversations about this initiative from the beginning. This initiative continues to promote Children's Sabbath, an ecumenical and interfaith weekend dedicated to celebration of and advocacy for children, of which Presbyterians have long been supporters.

Given the racial ethnic and poverty-related disparities in education opportunities and outcomes in the US and globally, this initiative is also a response to past General Assembly pronouncements related to race, economic inequality, and poverty alleviation.

III. Reports With Recommendations: None

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