

**ITEM B.108
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	
	D. Worshipping Communities	H. Executive Committee	

Subject: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mid-Council Engagement Guidelines

Recommendation:

The Advisory Committee of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) requests that the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board amend the mid-council disaster invitation guidelines of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance from the current language in the PDA Manual of Operations 2011: Upon request by a disaster-affected mid council, PDA will dispatch NRT advisers to the disaster site. The magnitude of the disaster will be considered in determining the size of the response team. Advisers may remain on-site for varying periods depending on the nature of the needs being served. A prolonged response may necessitate rotation of team members. To:

PDA can respond to a national disaster if:

1. Invited by an affected Mid Council.
2. Invited by a PC(U.S.A.) church affected by disaster or involved in disaster response when efforts to reach the mid-council have not been successful.
3. Invited by a partner disaster response organization such as a National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster partner or Federal Emergency Management Agency when efforts to contact the mid-council have not been successful or if the Mid-Council has indicated it does not have an interest or stake in a regional response within its bounds.
4. Requested by PCUSA, A Corporation, in instances when property or camp of the PC(U.S.A.) General Assembly has been affected by disaster.

In any case, PDA would notify the appropriate Mid Council that PDA would be responding within the bounds of the presbytery or synod. Any grants requested must have the concurrence of the Presbytery or its officer.

Background:

Currently the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) mandates that, before it can respond to a disaster, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) must be invited into a Mid Council by an authorized representative of the affected Mid Council. With the changing Mid Council organizational structures, such as a fewer staff and fewer hours of operation, it has become increasingly difficult to secure an invitation. In addition, with staff turnover, there are some situations where the Mid Council contact person is not familiar with PDA's ministry.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD

February 3-5, 2016

Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Area

B.108

In order to better serve the PC(USA) congregations and the Mid Councils, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Advisory Committee passed the above recommendation at its stated meeting on October 6, 2015 and commends it to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board for approval.