

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
February 3-5, 2016
Theology, Formation, and Evangelism Ministry Area

ITEM C.102
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
X	C. Leadership	G. Audit	
	D. Worshiping Communities	H. Executive Committee	

Subject: **Theology, Formation, and Evangelism Ministry Response to Referrals**

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the Theology, Formation, and Evangelism Ministry portion of the Presbyterian Mission Agency report and forward to the 222nd GA (2016)

I. Referrals in Progress

1. *Alternate Resolution to 2012 Referral: Item 15-11. Report of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) of Its Engagement with Corporations Involved in Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank. Recommendation 2. Call for a Process of Engagement That Will Bring Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the U.S. into Effective Partnering for Study, Travel, and Social Action—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I. pp. 39, 42–43, 1399–1410 of the CD; p. 285 of the print copy).*

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

2. *2014 Referral: Item 07-02. The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 3. Confessing the History of Christian Domination and Supremacy Over Other Religions, Which Included Forced Conversions, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Affirms a Commitment to Work for the Common Good in Society Together with People of Other Faiths and Interreligious Bodies at All Levels; and Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly to Appropriately Support Emerging Partnerships for this Purpose—From the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 34, 444–53; p. 205 of the print copy).*

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

3. *2014 Referral: Item 07-02. The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 5. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Assist the Work of Congregations and Mid Councils by Helping Them to Share with One Another Existing Models of Interreligious Relationship Building—From the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 34, 444–53; p. 206 of the print copy).*

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

II. Final Response to Referrals

1. *2012 Referral: Item 12-09. A Resolution to Recognize the Commitment of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Making Just Immigration a Reality. Recommendation. Direct the Office of Immigration Issues and the Office of Theology, Worship and Education to Collaborate in the Development of Accessible Worship and Study Resources That Will Assist Presbyterians in Understanding, Engaging, and Integrating an Ecclesiology of ‘Being Church Together’—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 55, 60, 1155–57 of the CD; p. 263 of the print copy).*

Response: The Office of Immigration Services and the Office of Theology and Worship conducted a consultation in early 2015 and will have resources available to the church at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/>

2. *2014 Referral: Item 06-12. Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams. Recommendation 10. Direct the Office of General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Review the Programs and Procedures Used by, or Available to, Presbyteries to Prepare, Equip, Credential, and Deploy Pastoral Leadership for Congregations Other Than the Preparation Process for Those Seeking Ordination to the Ordered Ministry of Teaching Elder, with a Report to Be Submitted to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 14, 74, 376–88; pp. 200-201 of the print copy).*

Response: This referral will be answered by the Office of the General Assembly report titled “ (item number to be inserted by OGA)

3. *2014 Referral: Item 07-02. The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 6. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Build Capacity for Strong and Mutual Interreligious Relationships Throughout Its Ministry Areas, to Develop and promote Resources That Support the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at All Levels in the Church’s Efforts to Build and Strengthen Those Relationships, and Facilitate Cooperative Efforts with Other Religious Traditions for Social Justice. Among These New Resources Would Be “The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” and an Accompanying Study Guide—From the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 34, 444–53; p. 206 of the print copy).*

Response: Within the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), Interfaith Relations works with World Mission to offer training to Mission Co-Workers on interfaith relationships, and to hold workshops for congregations and at PMA sponsored conferences. We are developing resources for congregations and members with the Young Adult Interfaith Cohort based on the Interreligious Stance's spheres. Supporting materials can be found at [http://www.presbyterianmission.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/interfaith/the_interreligious_stance_pc\(usa\)1.pdf](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/interfaith/the_interreligious_stance_pc(usa)1.pdf)

4. *2014 Referral: Item 07-02. The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Recommendation 7. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Cooperate with Youth and Young Adults in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Their Interreligious Engagements That Support the Larger Efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Respectful and Mutual Interreligious Relationships on Behalf of Justice, Peace, Reconciliation, and the Common Good—From the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 34, 444–53; p. 206 of the print copy).*

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Response: The Office of Theology and Worship and the Office of Interfaith Relations has created a Young Adult Interfaith Cohort of Presbyterians engaged in interfaith work throughout the church and in the world. The Cohort is a two-year commitment that offers mentorship and works with young adults in the creation of resources for the church. More information can be found at <http://whatsnextwhatsnow.org/issue/interfaith/>

5. *2014 Referral: Item 13-08. On Celebrating the 500th Birthday of John Knox. Recommendation 4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to Develop and Disseminate Worship Aids, Including Public Prayers and Resource Materials for the Month—From the Eastern Korean Presbytery (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 24, 25, 981–83; p. 312 of the print copy).*

Response: The Office of Theology and Worship developed a web resource (<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/john-knox-500/>) to celebrate John Knox's 500th birthday in 2014, including a Reformation day liturgy, an essay on Knox and prayer, excerpts from the Scots Confession, and a short biographical sketch.

6. *2014 Referral: Item 14-04. Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Church Growth Consultation Committee Report. Recommendation 2. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Committee on Theological Education to Consult with Theological Seminaries to Develop Culturally Sensitive Curriculum, Theologies, Language, Teaching and Learning Styles for Teaching Elders and Church Leaders of All Ethnicities—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 44, 46–52, 1000–09; p. 316 of the print copy).*

Response: The Committee On Theological Education (COTE) accepted the lead and began with a consultation of Presbyterian Mission Agency staff from the Racial/Ethnic and Women's Ministries (RE&WM) ministry area and proceeded to contact seminaries with regard to their present work addressing culturally sensitive curricula and learning styles for teaching elders and church leaders of all ethnicities.

As a result of the commitments COTE and the seminaries already have to addressing racism, racial ethnic diversity, and new immigrant worshipping communities, along with consideration of the results of the consultation, COTE:

- *Unequivocally states* its ongoing commitment to addressing racism, racial ethnic diversity, and new immigrant worshipping communities.
- *Will write letters* by the end of April 2016 to each seminary affirming what they are doing, encouraging them to deepen and extend what they are doing, and offering COTE as a supportive resource.
- *Will actively support* the work of the Coordinator of Theological Education and Seminary Relations on R/E New Immigrant leadership issues in partnership with RE&WM, participation in programs which support R/E and New Immigrant seminarians, and development of a seminary faculty consultation on anti-racism, inclusion, and seminary programs. *COTE will receive the Coordinator's report* on these activities and consider observations and suggestions based on these activities.
- *Recommits* itself to continue deepening its engagement with these issues, supported and facilitated by the Coordinator of Theological Education and Seminary Relations. COTE understands this response to referral 14-04 2 to be only the first step in its ongoing response.

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7. *2014 Referral: Item 13-07. Report of the Special Committee on Funding Theological Institutions. Recommendation 1. Direct the Transfer of the Theological Education Fund (the “Fund”) from the Presbyterian Mission Agency (“PMA”) to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation (“Foundation”), to Be Managed, Administered, and Distributed by the Foundation for the Benefit of Seminaries Related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Pursuant to a Fund Advisory Agreement Between the Foundation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, on Behalf of the PMA and on Behalf of the Committee on Theological Education (“COTE”), the Fund Agreement to Provide That Future Contributions to the Fund Will Be Irrevocable Contributions to the Foundation and Distributed Only as Directed by COTE, Effective January 1, 2015 (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 16, 25, 979–81; p. 312 of the print copy).*

2014 Referral: Item 13-07. Report of the Special Committee on Funding Theological Institutions. Recommendation 2. Direct That Responsibility for Marketing and Administering the Fund Be Transferred from the PMA to the Foundation, Effective January 1, 2015, and That the Foundation and COTE Engage in a Process, as Spelled Out in a Fund Advisory Agreement, to Hire an Experienced, Full-Time Fundraiser, Whose Work Shall Be Under the Direction and Ultimate Performance Management of COTE and Dedicated Solely to Generating Financial Support for Theological Education (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 16, 25, 979–81; p. 312 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 13-07. Report of the Special Committee on Funding Theological Institutions. Recommendation 4. Direct That the Marketing Information and Databases for the Fund Be Transferred from the PMA to the Foundation, as Permitted by Applicable Law and Consistent with Written Representations or Other Appropriate Communications to Donors, to Be Used Only for Marketing of the Fund, Effective January 1, 2015 (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 16, 25, 979–81; p. 312 of the print copy).

2014 Referral: Item 13-07. Report of the Special Committee on Funding Theological Institutions. Recommendation 5. Direct That the Responsibility for the Denomination’s Relationships with PC(USA)-Related Seminaries Will Continue to Be Lodged Under COTE, and That Any Mission Program Support for COTE Will Continue to Be Provided by the PMA in Consultation with COTE (Minutes, 2014, Part I, pp. 16, 25, 979–81; p. 312 of the print copy).

Response: The Theological Education Fund was successfully transferred from the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation at the beginning of 2015 pursuant to the Fund Advisory Agreement between the Foundation and the PC(USA), A Corporation, on behalf of the PMA and the Committee on Theological Education.

The Foundation hired the Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty to serve as the Senior Director of Theological Education Funds Development and the Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol as Associate Director for Theological Education Funds Development. They both began service in these roles on January 1, 2015.

The marketing information and databases for the Fund were transferred from the PMA to the Foundation, as permitted by applicable law and consistent with written representations or other appropriate communications with donors.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency hired a Coordinator for Theological Education, the Rev. Dr. Michelle Bartel. She began serving in March 2015. Her work entails the denominational support for theological education and PC(USA) seminaries, including serving as the primary staff support for the Committee on Theological Education.

IV. Reports without Recommendation

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1. *2012 Referral: Item 16-10. On Directing the Office of Collegiate Ministries to Present a Progress Report Regarding the Collegiate Ministries Task Force Report Received by Our Committee to the 221st General Assembly (2014)—From the 220th General Assembly (2012) (Minutes, 2012, Part I, pp. 48, 51, 1487).*

Progress Report: The Presbyterian Mission Agency has reestablished the Office of Collegiate Ministry (OCM) since the 219th General Assembly (2010) and continued in that effort by installing the Mission Associate for Collegiate Ministry to carry on the work of the office. Since 2010, the OCM has developed a strategy for mission in higher education and launched a network of collegiate ministries under the branding of UKirk Ministries. Many of these ministries are directly connected to and supported by middle governing bodies (both presbytery and synod levels). Broadly speaking, the OCM continues to expand the network through the establishment of an advisory board, regional and national gatherings, resource development, and grant distribution.

Though efforts have been made to fulfill the strategic plan since 2012, changes in the OCM staffing over the past three years have slowed this progress. Following the departure of the originally hired Associate for Collegiate Ministries, an interim associate was designated from within the existing PMA staff on a half- time basis (continuing his role as the Associate for Evangelism simultaneously). During that interim time, implementation of the strategic plan continued, albeit, at a slower rate.

A national search was conducted twice during the interim period, resulting in the hiring of a new Associate for Collegiate Ministry, Jason Santos, in the autumn of 2014. Progress continued until the reorganization of the Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area to become part of Theology, Formation and Evangelism in summer 2015. At this point, Santos assumed a broader role overseeing and coordinating Ministries with Youth, Young Adult Ministries, Camps and Conference Ministries in addition to Collegiate Ministries. During the writing of this report, the PMA is anticipating hiring another associate for the OCM, depending on the availability of funding. The OCM has also struggled with establishing sustainable funding as budgeting pressures common to the PMA have also impacted this ministry.

Progress has been made in the 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative, through the establishment of over twenty collegiate and young adult-focused new communities and several others in the application process. While no notable efforts have been made toward establishing regional collegiate ministry offices, both regional and national cohort gatherings will have been established by the 2016 General Assembly. These cohorts are comprised of 10-12 campus ministers and/or chaplains within the PCUSA, each with designated regional leadership.

With regard to recruiting and training possibilities, over ten internship grants were awarded to various collegiate ministries nationally over the past two years. Moreover, the OCM continues to promote a collegiate emphasis in PCUSA seminaries both through field education placements and course work offerings. Seminaries participating in field education and coursework in collegiate ministries include Princeton, Union, Columbia and Austin.

Since 2014, several notable efforts include the development and dispersion of UWorship (a four-year printed lectionary and liturgical resource for worship), UKirk Daily (a devotional smartphone application for collegiate students), UKirk Internship Grants (to continue in 2016), and the UKirk Cohort Project (peer- oriented gatherings for collegiate ministers).

The OCM maintains ecumenical connections through the National Campus Ministry Association, the Ecumenical Collegiate Ministry Team, and the National Association for College and University

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Ministries. The OCM also supports and participates in the Presbyterian College Chaplains Association and the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities. To date, the OCM serves over 70 college chaplains nationally and over 1,200 established collegiate ministries within the UKirk Network.