PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
February 3-5, 2016
Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries Ministry Area

ITEM C.105
FOR ACTION

FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY					
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance		J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation		P. Plenary
X	C. Leadership		G. Audit		
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee		

Subject: **Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. as a PC(USA) General Assembly Related Corporation**

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve and forward the following recommendation to the General Assembly:

That the 222nd General Assembly (2016) amend the *Organization for Mission* in the following ways:

1. **Delete the word "related" in the title to Section VIII, so that it would read:**
   VIII. Other General Assembly ~~Related~~ Corporations

2. **Add a new Section IX as follows, renumbering the remaining sections:**
   IX. Corporations Related to the General Assembly

   Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.

   Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. (PW), is organized and operated to be an inclusive, caring community of women, forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (the Church) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom by nurturing faith through prayer and Bible study, supporting the mission of the Church worldwide, and working for justice and peace. Members of Presbyterian Women are first and foremost members of the Church. The organization is structured at the congregation, presbytery, synod, and national levels in order to support the Church at each level.

   PW is an integrated auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PW is not subordinate to the General Assembly. PW's Certificate of Incorporation includes a Statement of Faith which provides that PW holds to the doctrines and principles of the Reformed tradition as expressed in the Church's Constitution. PW is related to the Presbyterian Mission Agency through an agreement which is reviewed and approved by the General Assembly every four years.

Rationale

The Organization for Mission is the manual of operations for General Assembly agencies, expressing the General Assembly's design for mission and interconnectedness between agencies.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board has responsibilities for maintaining (and suggesting revisions to) sections I-III and V-IX, while the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly provides oversight for section IV (related to the work of the Office of the General Assembly.) The General Assembly considers recommendations to revise these sections as submitted by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly.

The table of contents of the Organization for Mission provides an overview of what the document covers:

Introduction
I. History of the Structure for Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
II. Statement of Vision and Priority Goals for Mission
III. Mission of the General Assembly
IV. General Assembly Officers and Committees and the Office of the General Assembly
V. The Presbyterian Mission Agency
VI. Presbyterian Mission Agency Relationships
VII. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation
VIII. Other General Assembly Related Corporations
IX. Amendments
Appendices

The recommendation to revise the title of Section VIII is rooted in a clarification that the agencies listed in Section VIII (Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc.) are not simply "related" to the General Assembly, they <u>are</u> General Assembly corporations. When Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. (PW), requested to be listed in the Organization for Mission as a related corporation, this need for clarity surfaced. The recommendation seeks to distinguish between General Assembly corporations (in Section VIII) and corporations related to the General Assembly in Section IX.

In the overall organization for mission within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PC(USA)), PW plays a unique role. The new section, which this recommendation seeks to add, acknowledges that important role within the PC(USA).

The *Organization for Mission* is incomplete without referencing this important point of mission coordination for Presbyterians.

PW:

- Is the women's organization of the PC(USA). There have been women's organizations in the Presbyterian Church for more than 200 years.
- Is actively involved in domestic, international, and ecumenical mission and cultivates partnerships with each General Assembly agency.
- Is a tax-exempt national women's organization related to the PC(USA) as an integrated auxiliary.

- Has a Certificate of Incorporation that links the organization directly to the PC(USA) Constitution.
- Has a national moderator who is a member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board with voice and vote. A member of PMAB is appointed to serve as a director with voice on vote on PW, Inc.'s national board.
- Entered into a covenant relationship in 2001 with the General Assembly Council, now known as the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This covenant, now an institutional relationship agreement, was renewed most recently in 2014.
- Continues to be in programmatic partnership with PMA ministry areas and committees, including the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns, World Mission, Compassion, Peace and Justice, and Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries.
- Corresponds to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board through Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries.

This recommendation is being brought forward in the spirit of collaboration between Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. and the Presbyterian Mission Agency.