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FOR INFORMATION

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPDATE

Presbyterian Women (PW), true to its purpose, works closely with the various agencies of the church to support the work of the church.

- The PW Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) has adopted the **Educate a Child Initiative** as a triennial goal, and is planning Together in Action Days around human trafficking and children's literacy. Information on Together in Action Days is available on the PW website.
- PW staff serves on Presbyterian Mission Agency roundtables, including the **Human Trafficking Roundtable** and the **Ending Sexual Violence Roundtable**. In November, PW helped lead the ECPAT session for Staff Development Day. ECPAT is an international organization dedicated to ending child prostitution, pornography and trafficking. ECPAT-USA is the leading U.S. anti-trafficking policy organization.
- The CCT has formed a **Justice and Peace Roundtable consisting of justice and peace activists** that meet at least quarterly by conference call. Nearly 100 PW members are among the list of activists and about two dozen of them are on each call sharing ideas. For information, contact Yvonne Hileman (yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org).
- At its September board meeting, the CCT reaffirmed PW's **commitment to ending all forms of violence** against women, urging participation in Courageous Conversations, an initiative of the PC(USA), and Orange Days, an initiative of the UN.
- PW is in **partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, recruiting and training disaster preparedness trainers.
- As always, PW tells the story of shared work in the church through PW's web pages, magazine and quarterly newsletter. PW is **focusing on telling more stories** through its blogs: *Mission Matters*, *Manna for the March*, *Creative Ministries*, the Bible study blog and other means.
- PW suggests its mission partners for the **PC(USA)'s International Peacemaker program**. This year at least two women who are mission partners of PW itinerated as peacemakers. There is potential for even more in 2016.
- Presbyterian Women groups around the nation participate in hands-on mission efforts of the church, including assembly of **Gifts of the Heart kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service**. In the spring, a group of women will visit Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center to learn about and participate in the assembly of the kits.
- Presbyterian Women is strengthening **relationships with immigrant women** from partner churches. Memoranda of understanding were signed at the PW triennial business meeting in June 2015 with women from the Ghanaian, Cameroonian and Kenyan churches.

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- In addition to Birthday and Thank Offering grants, PW gives grants to creative ministries and funds mission through **PW development projects** identified during PW mission and partnership trips. In November 2015, PW forwarded several thousand dollars to the Presbyterian Church of India's Women's Development Fund to fund women's empowerment in Ri Bhoi Synod.
- **PW gatherings raise funds for local, regional, national and international ministries**, from soup kitchens to ECPAT-USA and the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN. In June 2015, PW raised more than \$16,000 for ECPAT-USA, more than \$16,000 for a women's shelter in Puerto Rico, \$1,000 for CARE, \$1,000 for the PC(USA)'s UN office, \$38,000 for the American Indian Family Center in St. Paul, and \$2,300 for the Presbyterian Hunger Program.
- PW works closely with **Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries** on women's leadership development and antiracism efforts—producing materials for and promoting Celebrate the Gifts of Women celebrations, producing Women of Faith materials, developing antiracism resources, promoting the #SpeakAntiracism campaign and collaborating at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.