

**ITEM D.200**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**EVANGELISM UPDATE**

**Church Transformation**

**New Beginnings:**

As of the end of December, we will have assessed 115 churches, bringing the total to 516 since 2010. In September we were informed that our heavy use of contractors was out of compliance with labor laws and we would need to revamp the program. We have just completed a new business plan that uses employees only for almost all of the work. The first three months of 2016 will be a time of experimenting to see how the combination of price increases, capacity limits and other adjustments will combine to make a sustainable program. We will be closely monitoring our progress and adjust as necessary between March and June.

**Urban Presbytery Network:**

This is a network of presbytery executives, sponsored by our office, who gather twice a year for the purposes of learning together about supporting ministry in urban settings. They met in Charlotte, NC this fall, visited two exciting congregations and had lively conversations about those sites and about the work Charlotte Presbytery is doing to vision and plan for its future.

**1001 New Worshiping Communities**

**New Communities:** We currently have 316 New Worshiping Communities. An additional 54 communities launched but have been removed from our list for a variety of reasons, such as becoming an organized congregation or failing to thrive, but many of those continue to function as significant ministries. 46 Seed Grants, 21 Investment Grants and 8 Growth Grants were awarded in 2015.

**Staff Changes:** We have been delighted to welcome Eva Slayton as a fulltime administrative assistant for the 1001 initiative in November 2015 and expect to introduce a Western Region Associate in the beginning of 2016.

**Theological Foundations:** An impressive group of theologians and practitioners met at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in November 2015 to begin preparing a book length publishing project that will develop a more robust theological framework for the 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative.

**Works in Progress:**

- Recruitment has begun for apprentices for the 2016-17 program year.
- Coaches will be trained in January 2016.
- 10 new cohorts of NWC leaders have recently begun. We are hoping to continue to launch new cohorts.
- Seeking ways to maximize our assessment capacity by developing an abbreviated model.
- Work with Ecumenical Partners in Outreach continues as we collaborate with other mainline denominations in expanding our church planting efforts.

### **Office of Collegiate Ministry**

Since the September board report, the Office of Collegiate Ministry (OCM) has continued in the same structure and leadership. The Mission Coordinator for Youth, Collegiate and Young Adult Ministries continues to oversee the PMA's efforts in college ministry. Although the OCM is prepared to conduct a national search for a new Associate for Collegiate Ministries, we have not received final approval to move forward. Currently, we have designated funds for a full-time two-year term position.

The OCM continues support the larger collegiate network, with involvement in the *Presbyterian and Pluralist: Equipping Presbyterian Colleges and Universities for Interfaith Leadership*, to take place in Chicago on April 6-7, 2016. Additionally, through the efforts of the ECMT (Ecumenical College Ministry Team), the OCM will help plan and execute an ecumenical campus ministry gathering in the 16/17 academic year. As noted in prior reports, the OCM was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the F.I.S.H. Foundation, Inc. to take 12 campus ministers/chaplains to the Taizé Community in May/June of 2016. At the time of this report, applications are being accepted with an anticipated participant list in early February.

**UKirk Network:** The UKirk Network continues to grow with a total of 31 new or rebranded UKirk chapters established in 2015. To date the OCM has sent out over 100 UKirk care packages to our associated ministries for their support. UWorship, our lectionary-based worship resource for campus ministers and chaplains, has grown in usage, even extending to other denominational collegiate ministries. We've also begun UKirk Lit, a collaborative initiative designed to create and provide "executive summaries" of available collegiate and young adult ministry books and resources.

Last autumn, the OCM launched two exciting tools for connection: UKirk Daily and a new UKirk website ([www.ukirk.pcusa.org](http://www.ukirk.pcusa.org)). In November, we released UKirk Daily (an iPhone-based devotional application) and plans are in place for the Android version. Although the new website is up, content is gradually being created and uploaded, as staffing efforts permit. Both UKirk Daily and the new website have drawn considerable praise from the campus ministry community.

The new website is also the primary portal that the OCM is utilizing to register the PCUSA collegiate ministries around the nation. Starting in January 2106, we are asking every collegiate-age ministry within the PCUSA to "re-register" in order for the OCM to concretely identify our constituency.

Finally, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church has officially adopted the UKirk branding for their college ministries, resulting in the expansion of our network and the strengthening of our ties between the denominations. Currently, conversations with both the Korean Presbyterian Church and the Evangelical Covenant Network are underway about these sister denominations participating in the UKirk Network as well.