

ITEM H.109
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	X	H. Executive Committee	

Subject: Communications Response to G.A. Referrals

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Executive Committee recommend that the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the Communications portion of the Report to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and forward it to the General Assembly.

Final Responses to referrals

2014 Referral: Item 14-04. Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Church Growth Consultation Committee Report.

Recommendation 4. Direct the six agencies of PC(USA)—Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc., Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and Board Of Pensions—to distribute essential documents in multiple languages, as appropriate.

Response: The Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Office of Communications has on staff one Spanish language translator and one Korean language translator. Their full-time work is to translate essential documents into Spanish and Korean, principally for the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The documents that are considered “essential” vary depending on the different constituencies, and the Spanish and Korean caucuses have taken an active role in defining what they wish to have translated.

On the Spanish side, highlights of our translator’s work include General Assembly overtures; important media releases, memos, statements, newsletters, and prayers from the Stated Clerk and GA Moderator; elder-training monthly columns and materials for Special Offerings; and a special edition published by *Presbyterians Today* called *Welcome to the Presbyterian Church*.

Highlights of our Korean translator’s work include GA overtures; media releases, memos, statements, newsletters, and prayers from the Stated Clerk and GA Moderator; ruling elder materials; Belhar Confessions; Parliamentary procedures; materials about the 1001 New Worshipping Communities initiative; and materials for Special Offerings.

The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program has one document it considers essential (their Offering Circular) that has been translated into both Spanish and Korean.

The Presbyterian Foundation had its agency overview piece translated into both Spanish and Korean. Their *Composing a Legacy* brochure (overview of Foundation services) was translated into Spanish, and their Spending Formula piece (explanation of the total return policy of the Foundation for endowment funds) was translated into Korean.

Although the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation does not consider any of its materials essential, the agency is working with OGA to publish *How to be a Presbyterian Ruling Elder* in Spanish and Korean. Their hymnal committee was intentional about including hymns with Spanish and Korean lyrics, as well as some settings in other languages. They have also produced various Thoughtful Christian studies and a hymnal (*El Himmario*) in Spanish.

The Board of Pensions offers most of its resources about plans, programs, and benefits in Spanish and Korean.

Within the Presbyterian Mission Agency, staff members from the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries area have been instrumental in securing translations of essential documents into other languages, largely by using teams of volunteers. The Asian Congregational Support office has translated the *Book of Order* into Chinese and Indonesian; *Presbyterians Today* Advent and Lenten devotionals into Chinese, Indonesian, Taiwanese, Thai, and Vietnamese; news stories about ordination changes and same-gender marriage into Chinese and Vietnamese; a summary (published by The Presbyterian Outlook) of actions taken by GA221 into Chinese; and various other documents into Burmese with its multiple dialects. Their webpage also includes multilingual instructions (Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Japanese, Thai, Filipino, Taiwanese) to use the Google translate tool to get rough translations of other materials. The Portuguese Congregational Support office has translated the Book of Order and a letter from the Moderator into Portuguese.