

Report # B.001
JUSTICE COMMITTEE
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
February 4, 2016

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Justice Committee reports the activities of the Justice Committee meeting of February 4, 2016:

- I. FOR CONSENT: No Items**

- II. FOR ACTION:**
 - A. Approve the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Response to Referral report to the 222nd General Assembly (2016). [\(B.103\)](#)**

 - B. Approve the World Mission Ministry Response to Referral report to the 222nd General Assembly (2016). [\(B.105\)](#)**

 - C. Approve the addition of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) to the Approved Affiliates List. [\(B.106\)](#)**

 - D. Approve the addition of the National Action Network (NAN) to the Approved Affiliates List. [\(B.107\)](#)**

 - E. Approve the following recommendation in reference to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mid-Council Engagement Guidelines: [\(B.108\)](#)**

The Advisory Committee of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) requests that the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board amend the mid-council disaster invitation guidelines of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance from the current language in the PDA Manual of Operations 2011: Upon request by a disaster-affected mid council, PDA will dispatch NRT advisers to the disaster site. The magnitude of the disaster will be considered in determining the size of the response team. Advisers may remain on-site for varying periods depending on the nature of the needs being served. A prolonged response may necessitate rotation of team members. To:

PDA can respond to a national disaster if:

- 1. Invited by an affected Mid Council.**
- 2. Invited by a PC (U.S.A.) church affected by disaster or involved in disaster response when efforts to reach the mid-council have not been successful.**
- 3. Invited by a partner disaster response organization such as a National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster partner or Federal Emergency Management Agency when efforts to contact the mid-council have not been successful or if the Mid-Council has indicated it does not have an interest or stake in a regional response within its bounds.**
- 4. Requested by PCUSA, A Corporation, in instances when property or camp of the PC (U.S.A.) General Assembly has been affected by disaster.**

In any case, PDA would notify the appropriate Mid Council that PDA would be responding within the bounds of the presbytery or synod. Any grants requested must have the concurrence of the Presbytery or its officer.

- F. Approve and recommend that the 222nd General Assembly (2016) in reference to Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies and upon recommendation from the Committee of Mission Responsibility Through Investment do the following: [\(B.104\)](#)
- 1) Receive the report of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) on its extensive engagement of corporations in response to the referral from the 221st General Assembly (2014).
 - 2) Commend all corporations, especially those in the oil, gas and coal sectors, that have addressed climate change by adopting policies and practices that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions in their operations and/or in the use of their products.
 - 3) Call upon all corporations to increase their efforts to address climate change through vigorous action in line with the following expectations:
 - a. **Governance:** Clearly define board and management governance processes that acknowledge the scientific evidence of climate change, ensure adequate oversight of climate change risk and the strategic implications of a transition to low carbon energy systems.
 - b. **Strategy:** Integrate the management of climate change risks and opportunities into business strategy with a commitment to manage operations in a manner consistent with the internationally agreed upon goal of limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius, above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
 - c. **Implementation:** Incorporate scenario analysis and measurement, including risk assessment, within key business processes and investment decisions, to include: incorporating carbon pricing decisions regarding long term projects and products; setting robust goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that include increased use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency investments, and putting a price on carbon; and more rapid integration of new technologies designed to reduce the company's overall carbon footprint.
 - d. **Transparency and Disclosure:** Issue annual reports on the company's view of and response to its material climate change risks and opportunities including the comprehensive outlook on energy reflected in the company's strategy, how the company's strategy can adjust for significant changes (upwards and downwards) in demand for oil, gas and coal, and the carbon intensity of proven and probable reserves (including breakeven oil price) categorized by nature of projects' environment (ultra-deep waters, oil sands etc.).
 - e. **Public Policy:** Engage constructively with public policy makers and other stakeholders in support of cost-effective policy measures to mitigate climate change risks and support low carbon investments; ensure there is broad oversight and transparency about the company's lobbying activity and political spending, including activity by trade associations to which the company belongs, on this topic and related energy and regulatory issues; and disclose company positions on policy issues such as carbon pricing, renewable energy targets and international negotiations on climate change.
 - 4) Commend the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, Inc. for providing, through its New Covenant Trust Company subsidiary, the option of fossil free managed portfolios to congregations, institutions, and individual clients desiring such a customized

- approach; the Board of Pensions for exploring a fossil free option for plan members participating in its voluntary retirement savings plan options; Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for creating the “restoring creation loans” for congregations seeking to pursue reducing their carbon footprint.**
- 5) Encourage continued respectful discussion in the church and civil society on the critical issue of climate change, and how it should be addressed not only through the responsible use of investments, but also as individuals, churches, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) working together to reduce our carbon footprint.**
 - 6) Direct MRTI to pursue its focused engagement process on climate change issues with all corporations, particularly with those in the oil, gas and coal sectors, and report back to the 223rd General Assembly (2018) with recommendations, including possible divestment if significant changes in governance, strategy, implementation, transparency and disclosure, and public policy are not instituted by the corporations during the engagements of MRTI and ecumenical partners.**

III. FOR INFORMATION:

The Justice Committee:

- A. Elected Susan H. Osoinach as Chair and Joseph Morrow as Vice Chair for the year 2015-2016.
- B. Reviewed the Approved the agenda without amendments. ([B.100](#))
- C. Approved the minutes from the September 23, 2015 meeting. ([B.101](#))
- D. Reviewed and approved the Duggi Property (Lahore, Pakistan) Proceeds Redesignation which will be presented for action via the Property, Legal, and Finance Committee report to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation. ([B.102](#))
- E. Received for information:
 - 1) Verbal update from Compassion, Peace and Justice
 - 2) Verbal update from World Mission
 - 3) Jinishian Memorial Program United States Advisory Council and Governance Commission Draft Minutes from the November 5, 2015 meeting ([B.200](#))
 - 4) Presbyterian Hunger Program Advisory Committee (PHPAC) Minutes from the October 7-9, 2015 meeting ([B.201](#))
 - 5) Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) Referrals Report to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) ([B.202](#))
 - 6) Churchwide Conversation on Race, Ethnicity, Racism and Ethnocentricity, First Reading Referral Report ([B.203](#))
 - 7) Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community, First Reading Report ([B.204](#)).