

**ITEM B.102
FOR ACTION**

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

Subject: Comment to the 221st GA (2014) - Overture 037 “On Support for the Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai (IMCK) Endowment and the Endowment Concept—From the Presbytery of New Castle”

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 037, “On Support for the Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai (IMCK) Endowment and the Endowment Concept—From the Presbytery of New Castle” to the 221st GA (2014).

Comment:

The Institute Médical Chrétien du Kasai (IMCK) is an important partner of Presbyterian World Mission. Its ministry of compassionate Christian care and training of medical professionals is greatly needed in the DR Congo where WHO health indicators are among the worst in the world with alarming rates of infant mortality, malnutrition, and maternal mortality <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/cod.pdf> In the past Presbyterian World Mission was able to provide substantial support of IMCK through the contributions of PCUSA congregations and individuals, but this support has decreased in recent years. We believe that an endowment is a faithful and effective way of addressing the pressing need for financial sustainability for IMCK. This is especially true in a country as impoverished as DR Congo which ranks at the bottom of the Human Development Index <https://data.undp.org/dataset/Table-1-Human-Development-Index-and-its-components/wxub-qc5k> where national health insurance is nonexistent and individuals cannot pay a fee for service to cover the operating expenses of the institution.

In addition to financial support PCUSA World Mission believes strongly in the “ministry of presence” to accompany our partners as they serve in Christ’s name. Financial support in itself is not enough; we have committed ourselves to providing mission personnel to serve side by side with Congolese medical professionals as they serve in one of the most difficult contexts in Africa. PCUSA Mission Co-worker Dr. John Fletcher serves at IMCK and Dr. Martha Sommers is planning to begin service later this year and other mission personnel serve on the board. In addition to support of this endowment we also encourage PCUSA to support the sending of our mission personnel.