

ITEM B.117
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. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

Subject: Comment to the 221st GA (2014) - Overture 22 Supporting Middle East Peacemaking – from the Presbytery of New Covenant

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 22 Supporting Middle East Peacemaking – from the Presbytery of New Covenant

Comment:

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has worked in close collaboration with ecumenical partners throughout the Middle East for nearly two centuries, listening attentively to their expression of their witness, lives, hopes and needs. This overture in its Rationale and Recommendations is at sharp variance with the lived experience of our ecumenical partners in Israel-Palestine. Whether they are Palestinian citizens of Israel suffering from discrimination in almost every aspect of their lives or Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza enduring a multi-decade military occupation and economic colonization, their reality reflects an enormous imbalance of power.

Strategies and programs seeking a just peace based on a two-state solution that fail to acknowledge and account for this reality on the ground will be ineffective if not counterproductive.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency has worked and is working to promote General Assembly policy affirming universal human rights and international humanitarian law applying the same ethical standards and moral principles to all nations. This involves public policy advocacy in international arenas such as the United Nations and domestically with the U.S. Government, economic development and humanitarian relief, and engagement with transnational corporations to conform their practices with respect for human rights, international law and economic and social justice.