

**ITEM C.200**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries**  
**United Nations Commission on the Status Of Women**

A delegation of women from Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), National Network of Presbyterian College Women (NNPCW) and Racial Ethnic Young Women Together (REYWT) participated in the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women on March 10-21, 2014, at the United Nations in New York. The 2014 theme was: "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls." These goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Presbyterian participants advocated for God's justice and peace, guided by General Assembly policy. The event inspired and equipped Presbyterians including young adult women, many of whom participated for the first time. The delegation advocated for gender equality and gender empowerment at the local, state, national and international level. There were approximately forty-two delegates from Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The commission formulates policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide. Member states, non-governmental organizations, and United Nations entities participated in the sessions. Throughout the commission there were opportunities to attend and lead parallel events held by non-governmental organizations. On Thursday, March 13, the Presbyterian delegation led worship as part of the Ecumenical Women's morning prayer service. Later that day a Presbyterian parallel event featuring Ruth Farrell, Coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Marvella Lambright, Vice Moderator of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women, Courtney Hoekstra, Associate for Advocacy Committee Support, Bethany Ruhl, a student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and others was held to discuss "Millennium Development Goals: Reflections from Reformed Churches."

The commission evaluated its process in implementing the "access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. The agreed-upon conclusions of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women may be seen by contacting the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations or the Office of Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries.