

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD

April 23-25, 2014

Evangelism & Church Growth Ministry Area

**ITEM D.103
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		
X	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee		

Subject: Comment to the 221st GA (2014) - Overture 025 "On Amending G-2.0401 to allow Presbyteries to Elect and Ordain Persons as Commissioned Ruling Elders —From the Presbytery of San Diego"

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 025, "On Amending G-2.0401 to allow Presbyteries to Elect and Ordain Persons as Commissioned Ruling Elders —From the Presbytery of San Diego"

Comment:

The 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement will increasingly be dependent on developing new leaders within a presbytery or local congregation. This is especially crucial for racial ethnic, new immigrant and young adult centered worshiping communities. Many of these leaders, called to start new immigrant, racial ethnic and young adult new worshiping communities, are not ruling elders in chartered congregations. The 10-year-old movement from the United Kingdom, called "Fresh Expressions," is similar to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement. Their research shows that 40% of the leaders of their Fresh Expressions of Church had not occupied a leadership role previous to starting a Fresh Expression. This movement has started 4,000 Fresh Expressions of Church over the past 10 years. This overture may provide flexibility for presbyteries to employ new strategies for leadership development regarding new worshiping communities.

A presbytery's ability to elect and ordain men and women as ruling elders, for the purpose of commissioning them to serve a new worshiping community, may provide flexibility for the development of these new worshiping communities, particularly racial ethnic, new immigrant and young adult communities, whose growth often depends upon transformative leadership. Having trained commissioned ruling elders in the field at the beginning of these new worshiping communities may enhance their growth and provide the opportunity for these new worshiping communities to thrive and become mature expressions of Christian community.