

**ITEM H.113
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	
D. Worshipping Communities		H. Executive Committee	

Subject: Comment to the 221st GA (2014) - Overture 053 “A Resolution of Spiritual and Material Support for the Persecuted Church—From the Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley.”

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 053 “A Resolution of Spiritual and Material Support for the Persecuted Church—From the Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley.”

Comment:

The Church is called to prayer for those who suffer due to their faith. The Presbyterian Mission Agency reminds commissioners and advisory delegates the suffering of the church in the world is not only due to “persecution”, but there are many factors involved. These include geopolitical and economic factors. The General Assembly should consider all the factors that result in and contribute to sectarian violence. Use of the word “persecuted” mischaracterizes the nature of the maltreatment of Christians in the world, and in many cases would be an unhelpful exaggeration.

With respect to Special Offerings, research has continually shown during each of the last two reviews of Special Offerings by the Special Offerings Advisory Task Force the church is unwilling and unable to sustain a fifth special offering.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency suggests that if the General Assembly desires to address the substance of this overture through Special Offerings, that it consider building upon this new understanding of the “Peace and Global Witness Offering” rather than creating a new offering, or changing the distribution of an existing offering.