

Approved April 2015

**Minutes of the Executive Committee of the  
Presbyterian Mission Agency Board  
Of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Conference Call**

**November 20, 2014 –1:30 p.m. EST**

**CALL TO ORDER** Marilyn Gamm, Chair, called the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (“the Board”) to order with prayer.

**ATTENDANCE** Gamm called upon Ms. Susan Abraham, recorder for the meeting, to call the roll. A quorum was declared present for the transaction of business.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** James Ephraim, Jr. – Chair, Justice Committee  
Marilyn Gamm – Chair, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board  
Chad Herring – Chair, Finance Committee  
Mary Jorgenson – Member-at-large  
Mihee Kim-Kort – Member-at-large  
David Shinn – Chair, Worshiping Communities Committee  
Josephene Stewart – Vice-chair, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board  
Linda Valentine – Member ex-officio

**MEMBERS EXCUSED** Marsha Zell Anson – Member-at-large  
Kevin Yoho – Chair, Leadership Committee

*Leadership Cabinet* Terri Bate – Senior Director, Funds Development Ministry

*Recorder* Susan Abraham – Staff, Office of the Executive Director

*Others* Martha Clark – Staff, Office of Legal Services  
Barry Creech – Staff, Office of the Executive Director  
Denise Hayden – Staff, Office of the Executive Director  
Leslie Scanlon – Presbyterian Outlook

**ACTION – 1-EC-112014  
APPOINTMENTS BY THE  
CHAIR**

1. The Executive Committee **VOTED** to ratify and forward to the Board of National Missions for action the re-nomination of Patrick O'Connor to serve on the Jarvie Commonwealth Service Committee for a third three year term, beginning January 2015.
2. The Executive Committee **VOTED** to ratify and forward to the Board of National Missions for action the nomination of Jon Brown to serve on the Jarvie Commonwealth Service Committee for a second three year term, beginning January 2015.

See [Appendix 1](#) for background information.

**SELF-STUDY PROCESS**

Barry Creech gave an update on the Self-Study process. The Review Committee held its first meeting on November 5-7 in Dallas, Texas. We received positive feedback from this meeting. The next meeting will be held in April 2015 immediately after the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board meeting. The committee would like to interview Marilyn Gamm, Jo Stewart and staff at their April meeting.

**NOMINATING AND GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Chad Herring presented the report on behalf of the Nominating and Governance Subcommittee report.

**ACTION – 2-EC-112014  
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN’S CONCERNS (ACWC) NOMINATION**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Executive Committee **VOTED** to elect Gina Meester to a four-year term on the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (ACWC), Class of 2018.

**FOLLOW-UP ON GOVERNANCE TRAINING**

Herring reported that the Nominating and Governance Subcommittee will discuss this topic further at their next meeting after all members have had the opportunity to review the notes from the governance session at the September Board meeting more closely.

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTOR GOALS**

The Executive Committee agreed to refer the goals proposed by Ken Godshall back to the Nominating and Governance Subcommittee for further study and feedback.

**SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING EVALUATIONS**

Herring reported that committee chairs will receive a copy of the evaluations and be invited to an open dialogue on how they could change the structure and content of their meeting to improve future scores.

**WEBINAR IDEA FOR ENGAGING BOARD MEMBERS**

Marianne Rhebergen and Creech will be discussing webinar ideas next week and will report back to the chair following that conversation.

**ACTION – 3-EC-112014  
CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION**

The Executive Committee **VOTED** to convene in closed session at 1:57 p.m. to discuss personnel and property matters with only voting members of the Executive Committee to attend the closed session, with Linda Valentine and Martha Clark invited to attend a portion of the meeting.

**ACTION – 4-EC-112014  
RISE FROM CLOSED SESSION**

The Executive Committee **VOTED** to rise from closed session at 4:38 p.m. The chair announced that the following actions were taken in closed session:

**RESOLVED, that to better utilize space at 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky ("Premises"), the President and Executive Vice President/CFO be and they hereby are authorized to negotiate and execute one or more leases ("Lease") for a significant portion of the Premises at current fair market value; and**

**FURTHER RESOLVED, the lease may be executed by any officers of the Corporation if either the President or Executive Vice President are unavailable to sign; and**

**FURTHER RESOLVED, the officers of the Corporation are authorized to take any and all necessary actions to implement the above actions.**

**ADJOURNMENT AND  
CLOSING PRAYER**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Executive Committee was closed with prayer by James Ephraim at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Marilyn Gamm  
Chair, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board

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Linda Valentine  
Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

**ACTION ITEM**

**Subject: Appointments by the chair of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.**

**Recommendation:**

- 1. That the Executive Committee ratify and forward to the Board of National Missions for action the re-nomination of Patrick O'Connor to serve on the Jarvie Commonweal Service Committee for a third three year term, beginning January 2015.**
- 2. That the Executive Committee ratify and forward to the Board of National Missions for action the nomination of Jon Brown to serve on the Jarvie Commonweal Service Committee for a second three year term, beginning January 2015.**

**Rationale:**

According to the Agreement of Understanding, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board nominates four representatives for appointment to the Jarvie Commonweal Service Committee by the Foundation Board functioning as the Board of National Missions.

The current terms for Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Brown end on 12/31/14. Each is eligible to be re-nominated to serve an additional 3-year term to provide continuity in knowledge about and support of the Individual Service Program's work. In addition, Mr. O'Connor serves in a Jarvie Commonweal Service Committee seat which is to be nominated by the Executive Director for Jarvie Commonweal Service for approval by the Mission Agency Board. Both O'Connor and Brown have indicated a willingness to continue their service on the Jarvie Commonweal Service Committee.

Following are the terms for the Jarvie Commonweal Service Committee members who represent the Mission Agency Board:

- Ms. Betty Jones (term expires 2016)
- Mr. Alan Ford (term expires 2017)
- Mr. Patrick H. O'Connor (term expires 2014)
- Mr. Jon Brown (term expires 2014)
- Ms. Sara Lisherness (ex-officio)

The Reverend Patrick H. O'Connor Biography

The Reverend Patrick Hugh O'Connor is the lead pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, a multicultural congregation in the Presbytery of New York City. He has served this congregation since 1992.

In 2002 the church transitioned its model for ministry from a program model to a Purpose Driven Model which recognizes that each Christian and each congregation has a God-given purpose to fulfill. The Purpose Driven model includes five key purposes: 1) Worship; 2) Fellowship 3) Discipleship 4) Ministry and 5) Mission.

The Vision of the congregation is "Reaching Others for Christ Developing Believers in Christ." In seeking to be more contextually relevant in its mission and ministry, First Church is currently involved in the development of the "Tree of Life" a, \$ 7 million dollar family resource center that will extend the church's mission in the community in the twenty first century.

Reverend O'Connor received his formal education from Munro College, the University of the West Indies, the United Theological College of the West Indies, Yale University Divinity School and Columbia University. Patrick is also a graduate of the Columbia Business School, Institute for Not-for-Profit Management, Executive Level program and the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership. Ordained by the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman in June 1986, The Reverend O'Connor received his first pastoral call serving three congregations in the Port Maria Charge.

Patrick's leadership extends beyond the congregation to the Presbytery of New York City and the General Assembly. He has served as a Trustee for the Presbytery of New York City and on some of its other committees. He is a member of the PCUSA delegation to Caribbean and North American Area Council (CANNAC). He is Vice Chairman of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation Leadership team, Board Member and Secretary of the James N. Jarvie Commonwealth Service Committee, Chair of Jarvie's Grants to Organizations Committee, Trustee of Buckley Country Day School, Chairman of the Queens Citizens Organization, a Board Member of the Queens Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a Board Member of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, a Board Member of First Jamaica Community and Urban Development Corporation and has been involved with the work of the Interfaith Center of New York. Patrick is married to Marcia and they have two children, Ashley and Zachary.

The Reverend Jon Brown Biography

The Rev. Jon Brown currently serves as pastor of Old Bergen Church in Jersey City, NJ. He has served congregations in Hendersonville, NC and Charleston, SC and was director of adult program at Montreat Conference Center (NC). Jon served on the staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency for seven years prior to his call to Old Bergen, most recently as director for Mission Interpretation. During part of his tenure on the national staff Jon was staff liaison to the older adult networks; Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN), Association of Retired Ministers their Spouses and Survivors (ARMSS), and Presbyterian Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (PAHSA). Jon has two young adult children in college and is figuring out what this "empty nest syndrome" is all about.

**ACTION ITEM**

**Subject: Report of the Nominating and Governance Subcommittee**

**Recommendation:**

**That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Executive Committee ELECT Gina Meester to a four-year term on the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC), Class of 2018.**

**Background:** ACWC sent a letter to the Board Nominating and Governance Subcommittee asking that only current PMAB members be appointed to fulfill the responsibility of liaison from the Board to the Advocacy Committee. Gina Meester will replace Jack Hodges who resigned from the committee in order to fulfill this request of the Advocacy Committee.