

**Minutes of the Leadership Committee of the
Presbyterian Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
The Brown Hotel – Citation B
April 24, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER AND
WORSHIP**

The meeting of the Leadership Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board was called to order at 8:30 AM on April 24, 2014 by Vice Chair Cruz Negron-Torres. Cathy Piekarski led the group in prayer.

ATTENDANCE

ELECTED MEMBERS

Cruz Negron Torres, Vice Chair
Cathryn Piekarski
Nancy Ramsay
Glen Snider
Kevin Yoho

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Linda Valentine
Deborah Fair

OTHERS

Clare Lewis – Theology Worship & Education Ministry Area
Vince Patton – Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/PW
Penny Franklin – Theology, Worship & Education Ministry Area
Rebecca Snipp – Officer of the Deputy Executive Director for Mission
Charles Wiley – Theology, Worship & Education Ministry Area
Chip Hardwick – Theology, Worship & Education Ministry Area
Cynthia Cushman – Theology, Worship & Education Ministry Area
Christine Hong – Theology, Worship & Education Ministry Area
Rhashell Hunter – Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/PW
Ed Brogan – Presbyterian Council of Chaplains and Military Personnel
Lawrence Greenslit – Presbyterian Council of Chaplains and Military Personnel
Mary Jorgenson – Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/PW
Roger Dermody – Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Mission
Lee Hinson-Hasty – Theology, Worship and Education Ministry Area
Nancy Cavalcante – World Mission
Jomaris DeJesus – Communications
Arthur Canada – Executive Committee, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board
Brian Blount – Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Emily Odom - Communications
Sara Otoum - Communications
Eric Hoey – Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Area
Ruth Gardner – Executive Director’s Office
Debbie Newnum – Executive Director’s Office

EXCUSED

Bruce Stevens
Joyce Smith, Chair

C.100 - AGENDA

Cruz Negron-Torres reviewed the agenda and the committee **VOTED** to adopt it.

**C.101- MINUTES –
LEADERSHIP MISSION
COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 6,
2014**

The Leadership Committee **VOTED** to approve the February 6, 2014 minutes of the Leadership Committee. These minutes will be reported as an information item to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

**C.102 COMMENT ON
OVERTURE 51**

Recommendation: That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 051, “On Distinguishing Between Biblical Terms for Israel and Those Applied to the Modern Political State of Israel in Christian Liturgy – From the Presbytery of Chicago” to the 221st GA (2014).

Comment:

Integral to the narrative of salvation history in the Scriptures is particularity. Christians have long dealt with the so-called “scandal of particularity” that roots God’s relation with humankind as one mediated through particular individuals and peoples, most importantly through Jesus of Nazareth. This unfolding of salvation history means that God’s covenant with Israel cannot be dispensed with by contemporary Christians. *Israel* is part of our spiritual and theological vocabulary.

At the same time, the General Assembly has articulated a number of times that Christians should distinguish between the people Israel in the Scriptures and the modern state of Israel. The distinction between ancient Israel and the modern State of Israel is important, one that helps us make sense of our faith and its relationship to Judaism and the Jewish people.

The importance of these distinctions was recognized and articulated by our denomination in the document “A Theological Understanding of the Relationship Between Christians and Jews,” which was commended by the 199th General Assembly (1987) for study and reflection. That document makes the distinction in this way: “Both Christianity and Judaism claim relationship with the ancient people Israel; the use of the ‘Israel’ in this study is restricted to its ancient reference. When referring to the contemporary State of Israel this document will use ‘State of Israel.’” (Section on “Definitions and Language”) In 2004, the 216th General Assembly adopted a resolution on Christian Zionism that expressed that “Christian Zionism does not represent the majority of American Christians and the faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” [<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/resolution-confronting-christian-zionism/>]. Among other things, Christian Zionism is the belief that Christians are required by their faith to support the policies of the modern state of Israel.

At the same time we must also be careful not to claim that God’s covenant is strictly limited to *ancient* Israel. While it is a danger to confuse the biblical narrative of Israel with the modern state, there is also a danger in declaring that God’s particular relationship with the

people Israel ended in the time of the New Testament.

In our present situation congregations and individual Presbyterians will hear the language of “Israel” in multiple different ways. In some cases, “Israel” will be understood to be the present day State of Israel. In other cases, talk about “Israel” and the Old Testament narratives of the people of Israel will be a way of entering into God’s work of deliverance from oppression, living life as sojourners, and God’s promise of entry into a place of abundance.

This Overture is a call for educational help in having a clear understanding of important distinctions, the distinctions articulated in “A Theological Understanding of the Relationship Between Christians and Jews.” The distinctions made in that document can help Presbyterians speak of “Israel” (both as an ancient people and a contemporary nation) with clarity, insight, and faithfulness. Any additional educational materials on this subject would need to be contextually sensitive to congregations and their particular conversation partners.

Following discussion, the Committee **VOTED** to approve the recommendation.

C.207 – GRACE AND GRATITUDE

Charles Wiley presented the report C.207 on Grace and Gratitude. He asked “What is the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s theological and spiritual identity”? Many struggle to provide an answer to “Why Presbyterian” that goes beyond structure. Do we have a compelling vision? Grace and Gratitude succinctly and winsomely describes the *charism*, the gift of the Reformed tradition. Our gift to the wider church is our emphasis on God’s grace and gratitude. Might Grace and Gratitude become a denomination-wide way of describing Presbyterian identity?

Charles indicated that there has been overwhelmingly positive response to this initiative from new pastors. He also mentioned a paper being written by Christine Hong, Associate for Theology: Interfaith and Barry Ensign-George, Associate for Theology, called “The Sharp Edges of Grace and Gratitude”. It discusses how our understanding of grace and gratitude must take seriously the reality of sin, exploring structural justice and how we talk about grace and gratitude when some of what we have comes from unjust structures.

The committee commends this work. There was discussion around whether it can be sharpened to better set out what distinguishes and differentiates Presbyterianism from other Christian denominations.

Charles welcomed phone and e-mail conversations to further the discussion.

C.206 – SMALL CHURCH RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Cynthia Cushman presented the update on the Small Church Residency Program, which was launched four and one-half years ago and was then

UPDATE

called *For Such A Time As This*. The program has paired small, underserved congregations with recent seminary graduates in two-year pastoral calls. The name *For Such A Time As This* communicated the timeliness and urgency of the program, but gave no information as to what the program is actually about, hence the name change to *Small Church Residency Program*, with the tagline “*Growing Leaders, Growing Churches For Such a Time As This*.”

Additionally, a new strategy has been developed for engaging congregations, presbyteries, and candidates. Previously, the window for application from congregations and candidates was once a year. This process has now been integrated into the Church Leadership Connection, so that now candidates and congregations can opt into the program at any point during the year. This shift has just been put into place in 2014, and we now have in the pipeline 50% more congregations than have ever been part of the program in a single year, most of them from presbyteries that have never participated before.

C.208 – OFFICE OF INTERFAITH RELATIONS UPDATE

Christine Hong, Associate for Theology: Interfaith Relations, reported on her first year of work in the Office of Interfaith Relations.

She has worked intensively on the Interreligious Stance, a statement that, if approved by the General Assembly, would set the direction for future interfaith work. This statement is being sent to the Assembly through the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.

In addition, she has worked closely with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations Office and partnered with Sikh Americans. *Neighbor & Neighborhood* is a dialogue of the PC(USA) and the Sikh Coalition. It is for congregations and mid-councils, and was launched during Interfaith Harmony Week in February 2014.

She has also done work with the Young Adult Initiative to do interfaith work with Presbyterian young adults through the *Young Adult Fellowship*. This is a two-year fellowship to engage, support, and nurture Presbyterian young adults in their interfaith work and connect their vision and efforts to the PC(USA). It is funded by the Office of Interfaith Relations for the first year. Each cohort will develop interfaith resources based on the Interreligious Stance.

C.200 – 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 58th 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.” There were approximately forty-two delegates from Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women.

Presbyterian participants advocated for God's justice and peace, guided by General Assembly policy. The delegation advocated for gender equality and gender empowerment at the local, state, national and international level.

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."

Millennium development goals are:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

The agreed-upon conclusions of the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women may be seen by contacting the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, the Office of Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries, or Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA).

**C.201 – CALL TO THE
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
CHURCH-WIDE GATHERING**

Mary Jorgensen presented the report on the Church-Wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. The event will be held June 18-21, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. The context for the 2015 Gathering is based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The theme of the Gathering is "One Body, One Spirit." If you can't go, please consider sponsoring someone who can!

For more information, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

Rhashell Hunter lifted up the work of Mary Jorgensen. She described Mary as "a hands-on moderator" and said "we have been working on many things, and Mary has put a lot of hours in."

Rhashell also introduced Susan Jackson Dowd as the new Executive Director of Presbyterian Women.

**C.204 – COOK NATIVE
AMERICAN MINISTRIES**

Cook Native American Ministries (CNAM) continues to be in transition while the property sale begins closing. However, a significant step has taken place in the past several months to fully transition to a foundation. An initial grant program has been established with numerous applicants. Initial response to the grant program will guide the organization's emergence from a degree-granting institution to the largest Native American Christian philanthropy, while maintaining support of our financial contributors.

The Executive Director, Suanne Ware-Diaz, resigned for personal reasons. The Board of Directors accepted the resignation with regret. The Rev. Dr. Ron Lundeen, a board member, was called to oversee the Grant Program, Fundraising, Commission Ruling Elder (CRE) and other programs. The Executive Director vacancy was announced, and four outstanding applications have been received. A Search Committee has been named to begin the process of selecting a person to lead CNAM.

CNAM planned, promoted, coordinated and hosted the 2014 Winter Workshop on January 9-11, which had positive responses.

CNAM is pleased to be selected to receive the John C. Martin Award for "Teaching of the Bible" from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Rev. Judy Wellington, the Rev. Debbie Royals, and the Rev. Dr. Ron Lundeen will be planning and leading this session.

CNAM will coordinate and sponsor the CRE program for the next two years. We hope to identify a partner who will assume coordination and oversight. We will be in position to fund this program for several years. The 2014-2016 programs will be marked as CRE and Lay Leadership Training. Facilitators for CRE are the Rev. Dr. Larry R. Norris and the Rev. Martha Sadongei. Rev. Dr. Lundeen will be providing oversight and coordination.

CNAM remains debt free and its finances are under control. An agreement has been reached with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation to manage the endowment funds.

MOTION: That the RE&WM/PW staff compose a letter to Suanne Ware-Diaz in appreciation of her service as Executive Director of Cook Native American Ministries, and report back to the next Leadership Committee Meeting that the letter was completed.

The Committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C.209 & C.210 – COTE MINUTES

Lee Hinson-Hasty, Coordinator of the Office of Theological Education, presented the minutes of the September 16-18, 2013 and the February 25-26, 2014 meeting of the Committee on Theological Education (COTE). Lee announced that Jeffrey Bullock will be Chair of COTE following the 221st General Assembly.

At the 221st General Assembly, the following will be celebrated:

- Past leaders will be receiving awards for excellence in theological education.
- The Association of Theological Schools – Assemblies Training School now part of Union Presbyterian Seminary.
- Approval of Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes as President of Princeton Theological Seminary.

Also at the 221st General Assembly, the report of the Special Committee on Funding Theological Institutions will be presented, which recommends transferring the management, administration and distribution of the Theological Education Fund from the Presbyterian Mission Agency to the Presbyterian Foundation.

Lee introduced Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Dr. Blount gave a report on initiatives at the seminary.

VERBAL – RACIAL ETHNIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Rhashell Hunter and Vince Patton reported on Racial Ethnic Leadership Development Institutes, which is a key part of the Mission Work Plan related to Transformational Leadership.

Leadership Institutes are currently provided two to three times per year, with the objective being to strengthen and nurture the gifts of racial ethnic women and men and inspire them to greater leadership roles in congregations and in the larger church.

The goal is to be proactive in providing leadership development opportunities for racial ethnic women and men, and provide them with an overview of the many skills and talents needed to succeed in leadership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Racial ethnic and women leaders are also encouraged to become mentors to other racial ethnic and women leaders, supporting and encouraging one another in leadership and ministry.

Following are events that have taken place, or will take place:

- African American Mentoring Event and launching of the African American Mentoring Program, Montreat Conference Center, NC, April 21-24, 2013
- Young Adult New Immigrant Leadership Institute, American Airlines Training & Conf. Ctr., Dallas./Fort Worth, October 25-28, 2013
- Pan Asian English Ministries (EM) Pastor’s Conference, General Assembly 2014
- Women’s Leadership Institute/Young Women’s Leadership Development 2014

C.205 - APPOINTMENT ACTIONS FOR MISSION PERSONNEL

Nancy Cavalcante took questions about the recent Mission Personnel actions. The Committee reviewed the Mission Personnel Actions for December 2013 – February 2014 and will report them out as an

information item to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

Kevin Yoho was appointed as a member of the Mission Personnel Subcommittee.

C.202 – RE&WM/PW FAST FACTS

The Leadership Committee participated in a “Fast Facts” multiple choice quiz from Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women. Rhshell Hunter provided answers to the questions. The data was provided by the Office of the General Assembly, Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women, Evangelism and Church Growth, and Research Services.

C.203 – RE&WM GA EVENTS

Vince Patton presented General Assembly events that are either of interest to or sponsored by the Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries/PW Ministry area, including:

- Pan Asian English Ministry Pastor’s Conference: The theme is *Changing Landscape, Changing Leadership*. The conference will gather 1.5 and second generation Pan Asian English ministry pastors for leadership development, spiritual enrichment, networking and visioning. Keynote speakers include Frank Yamada, President of McCormick Theological Seminary, Mihee Kim-Kort, and Kevin Park, Associate Dean of Advanced Professional Studies and Assistant Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary.
- Women’s Leadership Institute/Young Women’s Leadership Development: The theme is *Abundance of Power and Vulnerability in Power*, and it is designed to address issues faced by women in leadership of all ages, as well as explore the relationship between vulnerability and power. Speakers include Laura Mendenhall, former President of Columbia Theological Seminary, Laura Cheifetz, Executive Director of Church and Public Relations for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation; Cari Trevino, Christian educator for Children and Youth at Central Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. Desiree Lawson, pastor of Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Flint, Michigan, is the worship leader

VERBAL – MILITARY CHAPLAIN’S UPDATE

Ed Brogan introduced Larry Greenslit as Director of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel (PCCMP). Larry was ordained in 1982, and is happy to be coming back to the church.

A summer retreat for chaplains and families will be held August 4-8 at Montreat Conference Center where participants will attend three days of training and fellowship. Captain Mark W. Smith will speak on the topic of self-care. The Rev. Dr. Angela Dienhart Hancock, Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Worship at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will be the preacher.

PCCMP will host a luncheon at the General Assembly. The speaker is

**VERBAL – UPDATE ON
LEADERSHIP FORMATION
THROUGH THE
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
AGENCY**

Chaplain Margaret Kibben, chaplain of the Marine Corps. and deputy chief of Navy Chaplains.

The Leadership Committee lifted Ed and Larry in prayer.

Chip Hardwick, Vince Patton, Nancy Ramsay, and Kevin Yoho updated the committee on the progression of this conversation since February's committee meeting and highlighted information from their conference call as follows:

Value:

- Transformational leaders throughout the PC(USA) are developed by engaging innovative concepts and tools from disciplines beyond traditional theology, from various parts of the church and from areas outside the church.

Obstacles:

- Some leadership resources produced by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (e.g. the marriage study) are not as helpful as they might be if they were to include data from the social sciences and other disciplines, which help to connect the issue at hand to cultural conversations more directly.
- Different parts of the church (e.g., mid council leadership) are experimenting with an expanded approach to leadership development, but Presbyterian Mission Agency efforts often do not take advantage of their insights and experiences.
- While some Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries look outside of the church for resources and insights (e.g., the African American Mentoring Event's planning team was in conversation with members of the Dallas Bar Association, who helped to coordinate that association's mentoring program), many more restrict their curriculum and programs to experiences and resources developed within the church.

Possibilities:

- Use case studies and other more creative pedagogical methods to bring in data from the social sciences and other disciplines, which may connect leadership studies more directly to Presbyterians' contexts.
- Work with the Association of Mid Council Leaders to determine whether and how to partner with leaders who can strengthen Presbyterian Mission Agency leadership development efforts, and include these leaders in program development from the beginning (i.e., not just looking for candidates to participate, but also involving them earlier to discuss format, content, etc., of the event)
- Talk with Ministry Directors about these obstacles and explore ways to collaborate more intentionally with Mid Council Leaders
- Consistently look for outside-the-church partners to strengthen

leadership development efforts.

Kevin and Nancy expressed appreciation for Chip's and Vince's engagement and responsiveness. If we can learn better and differently, that will impact all of mission and ministry. They are hopeful about how the conversation has progressed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cruz Negron-Torres
Chair

Clare Lewis
Vince Patton
Lead Resource Staff

Penny Franklin
Recorder