

**Minutes of the Worshiping Communities Committee of the  
Presbyterian Mission Agency Board of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
The Brown Hotel – Citation A, Louisville, Kentucky  
April 24, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WORSHIP**                    The meeting of the Worshiping Communities Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board was called to order by the Chair, Mihee Kim-Kort at 8:45 a.m. with prayer and devotion.

**ATTENDANCE**                                Those present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:**                Steve Aeschbacher  
Marsha Zell Anson  
Andrew Barron  
Marilyn Gamm – Vice-Chair  
Vicki Garber  
Mihee Kim-Kort – Chair  
Heath Rada  
David Shinn

**EXCUSED ELECTED MEMBERS:**                Marianne Rhebergen

**COMMITTEE SUPPORT**                    Deborah Harrison, Staff Support - Recorder  
Ray Jones, Lead Staff Support  
Philip Lotspeich, Lead Staff Support  
Sterling Morse, Lead Staff Support  
Alejandra Sherman, Staff Support

**OTHERS**                                        Roger Dermody, Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Mission  
Rob Fohr, Young Adult Catalyst  
Brian Frick, Associate, Camps and Conference Centers  
Debbie Gardiner, Office of the Executive Director  
Ruth Gardiner, Human Resource  
Teresa Grant, Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Mission  
Chip Hardwick, Director, Theology, Worship and Education  
Debra Hepler, Executive Director, Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center  
Eric Hoey, Director, Evangelism and Church Growth  
Ray Jones, Coordinator for Evangelism  
Sterling Morse, Coordinator, Racial Ethnic & Cross Cultural Ministries  
Debbie Newnum, Human Resources Clerical Assistant  
Sara Otoum, Social Media Specialist, Compassion, Peace & Justice  
Pete Peery, President of Montreat Conference Center  
Paul Seebeck, Associate for Mission Communications  
Tim Quinn, Assistant Treasurer  
Kitty Ufford-Chase, Co-Director, Stony Point Conference Center  
Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director, Stony Point Conference Center  
Charles Wiley, Coordinator, Theology, Worship and Education

**D.100 AGENDA**

Mihee Kim-Kort reviewed the Agenda for the meeting and the committee **VOTED** to adopt. D.100

**D.101- MINUTES-  
WORSHIPING  
COMMUNITIES  
COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

The Worshiping Communities Committee **VOTED** to approve the Worshiping Communities Committee Minutes of February 6, 2014 meeting.

**D.102- SAM & HELEN R.  
WALTON AWARD  
ALLOCATION**

Philip Lotspeich, Coordinator for Church Growth, presented the New Church Development(s) 2014 Sam & Helen R. Walton Award Allocation recipients(s). D.102 Committee **VOTED** to approve.

- New Faith Presbyterian Church NCD, Trinity Presbytery, Synod of South Atlantic - \$50,000
- Community Fellowship Presbyterian Church NCD, Mission Presbytery, Synod of the Sun - \$50,000

Background, in late December 1991, Sam and Helen R. Walton made a generous gift through the Presbyterian Foundation of \$6 million, which included \$3 million to be used for new church developments with an emphasis on site acquisition.

A video from a new worshiping community New Faith Presbyterian Church, Alice Ridgill, Pastor was shared  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J9uwoi1eG4>.

**D. 103- COMMENT TO  
221<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ON  
OVERTURE 025**

Philip Lotspeich presented the Comment to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (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”. Committee **VOTED** to approve (Revised D.103) Below underline = new text.

**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. When used thoughtfully and sparingly, 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.

**D.104- COMMENT TO  
221<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ON  
OVERTURE 011**

Charles Wiley, Coordinator, Theology and Worship presented Comment to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014)-Overture 011—"On Amending W-4.9000 Concerning the Church's Role in Legal Marriage and Services of Christian Covenant" [D.104](#). Committee **VOTED** to approve.

**Comment:**

Overture 011 from Lehigh Presbytery seeks to amend W-4.9000 in the *Book of Order* on the understanding of marriage. There are many aspects to this amendment, but one concerns the relationship of civil and church roles in services of Christian marriage.

The earliest Reformed patterns for marriage in the American colonies included separate civil and Christian recognition. The couple would be legally married by a civil authority, and then would receive Christian solemnization subsequently. This separation of the civil and religious aspects of marriage is practiced by many Reformed churches, and in many countries around the world.

In American history this pattern changed before the American Revolution largely as the result of Anglican influence where the King was head of the church and the state. In this understanding the minister was understood as a representative of the church and an agent of the state who therefore could perform the legal and religious functions simultaneously. This later pattern has endured and is reflected in W-4.9000 on marriage.

**D.105- COMMENT TO  
221<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ON  
OVERTURE 069**

Charles Wiley also presented Comment to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014)-Overture 069—"On Celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Birthday of John Knox—From the Presbytery of Eastern Korean" [D.105](#). Committee **VOTED** to approve.

**Comment:**

American Presbyterianism has been shaped decisively by the Scottish Presbyterian tradition, brought to North America by Scottish immigrants. John Knox decisively shaped the Scottish Presbyterian tradition through his theological and ecclesiastical work. The 500th anniversary of John Knox's birth is a good occasion for the PC(USA), its presbyteries, congregations, and members to remember and explore the work of John

Knox, considering the ways in which Knox's work and the Scottish Presbyterian tradition continue to shape us. Central to that tradition is fervent prayer and a powerful urgency to invite all to join in living lives that embody a gracious response to and sharing in the love of God incarnate in Jesus Christ.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency, through its Office of Theology & Worship is ready to prepare worship aids and accompanying resource materials to mark this occasion.

**POSTPONE ELECTION  
OF  
MDRC LIAISON**

The Committee **VOTED** to postpone the election of the Liaison to the Mission Development Resource Committee until the September 2014 Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

**D. 200- UPDATE ON 1001  
NEW WORSHIPPING  
COMMUNITIES**

Philip Lotspeich gave a verbal update on 1001 New Worshipping Communities [D.200](#).

**D.201-UPDATE ON NEW  
BEGINNINGS**

An update on New Beginnings [D.201](#) was presented by Philip Lotspeich. Marsha Anson commented on her congregation and four existing churches in Glacier Presbytery excited about their new ministry. A consultant trains key leaders and they go back to their congregations and have conversation with their leadership to get feedback. They are keeping the doors open for opportunity with a hunger ministry and already planning how they can be more evident in their community.

**D.202-GHOST RANCH  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

Brian Frick, Associate, Camps and Conference Centers introduced Debra Hepler, Executive Director at Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center. It is the largest employer in the poorest county in New Mexico and maybe United States. Debra Hepler presented the Overview of Ghost Ranch Strategic Plan. [D.202](#) Check out the website <http://ghostranch.org/> for up-coming events and programs.

**C.203-RACIAL ETHNIC &  
CROSS CULTURAL  
MINISTRIES EVENTS  
BEING HELD AT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Sterling Morse, Coordinator, Racial Ethnic & Cross Cultural Ministries reviewed events being held at General Assembly regarding Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Woman. [C.203](#).

**COLLEGIATE  
MINISTRIES**

Ray Jones, Coordinator for Evangelism gave a verbal update on the Search Committee regarding the hiring of the Associate for Collegiate Ministries. A meeting was held in Atlanta with UKIRK Board and Collegiate Board. A job description was developed. The Search Committee consists of one chaplain, two campus pastors, and three people from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. We have received over 30 resumes and we continue to work with Susan Ochs in Human Resources. The hope is to interview the top five of those on May 14-15, 2014. We prepared six supplemental questions to get deeper into who they are and why they feel called to this position. Hopefully, we will be able to announce the new Associate for Collegiate Ministries at General

Assembly. Mihee Kim-Kort, Chairperson and Rob Fohr, Young Adult Catalyst are on the Search Committee.

**2014 EVANGELISM AND  
CHURCH GROWTH  
CONFERENCE**

Ray Jones shared information on the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference held August 11-14, 2014 in St. Pete Beach, Florida with the theme GO. DISCIPLE. LIVE. For more information or to register go to the website [www.ECG2014.org](http://www.ECG2014.org)

**MONTREAT  
CONFERENCE CENTER**

Heath Rada introduced Pete Peery, President Montreat Conference Center. Pete Peery announced he will be retiring in a few months; however, he will stay on during the hiring process for the next president. He gave an update and history of Montreat Conference Center. It is one of three national conference centers affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), annually visited by over 35,000 people seeking physical and spiritual renewal in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina for relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest. The conference center is under the management of the Mountain Retreat Association, which formed in 1905. For over 100 years, it has been a place for those who journey there seeking a closer relationship with their Creator. Each year Montreat Conference Center hosts: over 5,000 youth that attend one of the six Youth Conferences, over 40 conferences and programs attended by pastors and committed lay people from around the country, eleven summer Sunday worship services in the historic Anderson Auditorium and over ten weeks of Road Scholar programs and hundreds of guest groups who come for private retreats. Thousands of people from the surrounding community enjoy the natural beauty of the hiking trails and other recreational opportunities. Montreat offers meeting space, housing, and recreational facilities for individuals, groups, and families. They also host non-profit and business groups looking for retreat opportunities in a peaceful, gracious setting. Montreat is registered in the North Carolina Registry of National Heritage Areas, resulting in more than 40 miles of hiking trails. Website: <http://www.montreat.org/>

**NATIONAL  
MULTICULTURAL  
CONFERENCE 2014**

Sterling Morse, Coordinator, Racial Ethnic & Cross Cultural Ministries shared information on the 15<sup>th</sup> National Multicultural Conference. The Theme is: Journeying and Awakening into God's Diverse World, being held in Ft. Worth, Texas on July 31 to August 3, 2014. Conference featured speakers are: Stacey Abram, Joe Clifford, Jooseop Keum and Luis Rivera-Pagan. To register go to website: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/multicultural/nmcc-2014/>

**NEXT CONFERENCE**

Rob Fohr, Young Adult Catalyst attended the NEXT Conference on March 30 -April 2, 2014 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He shared that it was a great experience with collaboration and learning more about resources available. Heath Rada also attended and shared his experience as a wonderful conference, lacking diversity in leadership. However, great, music and presentations each service used the same passage very powerful. Integrated the art of building a communion table.

**PAM ASIAN ENGLISH**

David Shinn shared he will be attending the Pan Asian English Ministry

**MINISTRY PASTOR'S  
CONFERENCE 2014**

Pastor's Conference on June 11-12, 2014 in Detroit, Michigan. Feature speaker is Frank Yamada, President of McCormick Theological Seminary. It is a one day conference and the theme is: Changing Landscape, Changing Leadership. It will provide opportunities for leadership development, spiritual enrichment, networking, and visioning that will inspire, equip, and connect them for the changing landscape in the church. Mihee Kim-Kort is the worship leader.

**GENERATIVE  
DISCUSSION**

The Committee held a discussion on 'The WE Approach: What's Our Purpose and Process?'

The Chair thanked the Class of 2014 for their commitment. The committee thanked Mihee Kim-Kort for her leadership as chair and the way she was able to keep communication with all Worshiping Community Committee members. They also discussed how to move forward with David Shinn, Chair and Marsha Zell Anson, Vice-Chair. The Class of 2014 shared some memories and suggestions:

- To manage the committee for production
- Continue to explain as new members are learning
- Board member orientation
- Steps for check list
- Defining responsibilities
- Best practices
- Will remember all the different kinds of experiences
- Words of wisdom encourage to stay with each other and stay engaged with staff and talk
- Sharing what PMA is exciting about being an ambassador for the church.
- Prepare an elevator speech that is accurate and engaging.

The Committee shared joys and concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Aeschbacher closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting closed at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mihee Kim-Kort, Chair

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Ray Jones, Lead Resource Staff  
Philip Lotspeich, Lead Resource Staff  
Sterling Morse, Lead Resource Staff

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Deborah Harrison, Recorder