

Presbyterian Mission Agency Board  
Executive Committee

**Executive Committee Retreat Business Session Record**

July 22, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. EDT

to

July 24, 2015 – 12:05 pm EDT

The Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Presbyterian Church (USA), A Corporation., met for its annual retreat at the offices of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, from July 22, 2015 to July 24, 2015.

Board Chair Marilyn Gamm appointed Chad Herring clerk pro-tem for this meeting.

Executive Committee Members Present:

Marsha Anson  
James Ephraim  
Marilyn Gamm  
Chad Herring  
Mihee Kim-Kort  
Melinda Lawrence Sanders  
David Shinn  
Jo Stewart  
Kevin Yoho

Staff Members Present:

Terri Bate  
Barry Creech  
Hunter Farrell  
Kathy Francis  
Debbie Gardiner  
Rhashell Hunter  
Sara Lisherness  
Earline Williams

**July 22, 2015 Session**

The meeting was called to order with prayer and devotional by Mihee Kim-Kort.

Chad Herring and Jo Stewart presented a discussion from the Mission Work Planning Team. David Shinn, Marsha Anson and Barry Creech led the Executive Committee through a set of generative questions about the current and possible future work of the Agency. Earline Williams and Chad Herring offered a financial update.

The Executive Committee then sat in business session to consider two items of business.

**MOTION: That the Executive Committee appoint Glen Snider as the replacement for Marci Glass on the Ghost Ranch Governing Board from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. Seconded and Carried.**

**MOTION: To permit the use of the chapel, consistent with the center's chapel and building use policy, for any couple bearing a lawfully issued marriage license. Seconded and Carried.**

Following the business session, the Executive Committee discussed a referral from the April Board Meeting.

Gamm appointed an Executive Committee task force (Jo Stewart, Mihee Kim-Kort, Kevin Yoho) to consider options for a churchwide conversation on the mission, priorities, and structures of the PMA, to bring back to the Executive Committee recommendations to bring to the Board in response to the April Referral.

Jo Stewart led the committee in exploring ways of strengthening the relationship between Agency staff and board members.

**MOVED that the Executive Committee convene in closed session as the Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation to discuss personnel, litigation and property matters with only voting members of the Executive Committee to attend all or part of the closed session. Seconded and Carried.**

The Executive Committee sat in closed session.

Gamm reminded the committee that “only the Executive Committee and others invited may remain and they are bound to hold all matters discussed as confidential. We remind those remaining that this meeting may not be recorded or shared in any manner, including but not limited to, sharing through various types of social media, such as blogs, Twitter, or Facebook.”

Discussion about various personnel matters ensued.

MOTION to arise from closed session. Seconded and carried.

Gamm called the meeting back to order and announced that no actions were taken in closed session.

The Executive Committee sat in recess.

### **July 23, 2015 Session**

The Executive Committee reconvened at 5 pm on July 23, 2015, at the offices of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Earlier in the day, members of the board and the staff visited four local ministries: First Presbyterian Church Germantown, Freedom School; The Common Place; Beacon New Church Development; and Christ’s Presbyterian Church.

Hunter Farrell offered an update on the Educate a Child initiative.

Following the update, the Chair recognized a need for additional conversation in closed session.

**MOVED that the Executive Committee convene in closed session as the Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation to discuss personnel, litigation and property matters with only voting members of the Executive Committee to attend all or part of the closed session. Seconded and Carried.**

The Executive Committee sat in closed session.

Gamm reminded the committee that “only the Executive Committee and others invited may remain and they are bound to hold all matters discussed as confidential. We remind those remaining that this meeting may not be recorded or shared in any manner, including but not limited to, sharing through various types of social media, such as blogs, Twitter, or Facebook.”

Discussion about various personnel matters ensued.

MOTION to arise from closed session. Seconded and carried.

Gamm called the meeting back to order and announced that no actions were taken in closed session. Staff members rejoined the room, and Yoho led those assembled in a closing devotional and prayer.

The Executive Committee sat in recess.

### **July 24, 2015 Session**

The Executive Committee reconvened at 9 am at the offices of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Ephraim opened our time with group devotional and prayer.

Staff and board members discussed the April 2015 Board meeting evaluation and offered feedback on improving the structure of upcoming board meetings.

The board discussed the importance for cultural proficiency and humility training. Common agreement was shared about the importance of the training, the need for training that was sensitive to the history and culture of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and an intention to provide the training annually if possible. Shinn, Kim-Kort, and Herring agreed to work with Rhashell Hunter to plan for the September 2015 meeting.

Creech led the committee through the PMA Review Committee draft report conversation, and received comments that might be used for a response to their work.

The Executive Committee decided to ask the Nominating and Governance Subcommittee to proposed recommendations regarding board structure and role, corresponding to the PMA Review Committee observation.

MOTION to adjourn. Seconded and carried.

Gamm closed the meeting with prayer at 12:05 pm EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Chad Herring". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chad Herring  
Clerk Pro-Tem  
Executive Committee  
Presbyterian Mission Agency Board