

APPROVED: February 4, 2016

**Minutes of the Worshiping Communities Committee of the
Presbyterian Mission Agency Board of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
The Crown Plaza Hotel – Whitley
September 23, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER AND
WORSHIP**

The meeting of the Worshiping Communities Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board was called to order by Chair, David Shinn, at 3:00 p.m. Andrew Barron led the committee in devotion followed by prayer.

ATTENDANCE

*Worshiping Communities –
Elected Members*

Marsha Zell Anson-Vice Chair
Andrew Barron
Gregory Chan
Vickie Garber
Mihee Kim-Kort
Marianne Rhebergen
David Shinn - Chair
Patsy Smith

Leadership Committee

Mark Brainerd
Harold Delhagen
Marci Glass
Neal Presa
Nancy Ramsay – Vice Chair
Landon Whitsett
Kevin Yoho – Chair

Committee Support

Ray Jones, Lead Resource Staff
Sterling Morse, Lead Resource Staff
Christy Riggs, Staff Support
Alejandra Sherman, Staff Support, Recorder

Corresponding Members

Tom Taylor, Presbyterian Foundation

Others

Simone Adams-Andrade, Theology, Formation & Evangelism
Jeff Arnold, Association of Presbyterian Colleges & Universities
Deb Coe, Research Services
Barry Ensign-George, Theology, Formation & Evangelism
Hunter Farrell, World Mission
Penny Franklin, Theology, Formation & Evangelism
Marilyn Gamm, Chairperson, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board
Chip Hardwick, Theology, Formation & Evangelism
Jeff Lawrence, Office of Communications
Tim McCallister, Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries
Vince Patton, Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries
Ann Philbrick, Theology, Formation & Evangelism

Greg Allen Picket, World Mission
Jason Santos, Theology, Formation & Evangelism
Paul Seebeck, Office of Communications
Rebecca Snipp, Executive Director's Office
Vera White, Theology, Formation & Evangelism
Charles Wiley, Theology, Formation & Evangelism

EXCUSED

Regina Meester

AGENDA

The Worshiping Communities Committee reviewed the agenda for this meeting and the Worshiping Communities Committee **VOTED** to **adopt** it.

MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2015 ACTION

The Worshiping Communities Committee **VOTED** to **approve** the Worshiping Communities Committee minutes of April 16, 2015. The minutes will be reported as an information item to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

ACTION REPORT D.102 – 2017 PROGRAMMATIC EMPHASES

Jeffrey Lawrence, Director of Communications Services, presented this item for consideration. The committee **VOTED** to **approve** the 2017 Programmatic Emphases with this amendment: the acting committee is the Worshiping Communities Committee not the Executive Committee.

INFORMATION REPORT D.200 – 1001 NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Vera White presented an update on the 1001 New Worshiping Communities. Her update included:

- 1001 Conference in St. Pete Beach, FL. The theme for the event was “Pursued by Grace.” The event has been described as inspiring and life-changing.
- Twenty-four Seed Grants and twelve Investment Grants were approved in August by the Mission Development Resource Committee (MDRC). The approval of these grants bring the total number of worshiping communities to 285, which are currently active in the program’s database.
- Twenty-one people are serving with the 1001 initiative in 2015 as a summer intern, a program year intern, or a full year resident.
- Seventy-three people have been trained as 1001 coaches. Ten coaches will be trained in September.
- Discerning Missional Leadership assessments were offered in Seattle, and Pittsburgh. All events were filled to capacity.
- A search has been authorized for a new regional associate to work with the West Coast presbyteries.

The committee gave praise to the work being done in this area and requested that Vera update the information item D.200 to include the statistics she verbally shared with the committee during her presentation. The report will be updated and posted on the website as revised.

INFORMATION REPORT D.201 –NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE

Ann Philbrick presented a report on New Beginnings, which is an assessment-based discernment process for churches seeking to make bold decisions about their future. Churches participate in one of two ways: on

their own or with a cluster of churches sponsored by a presbytery.

The total number of churches that have gone through this process is 479.

Conversations are underway with the Presbyterian Mission Agency staff in the Legal Office and Human Resources to determine the most effective way to write contracts needed for the New Beginnings process.

**INFORMATION
REPORT D.202 –
DIRECTION AND
STRATEGY OF
FORMATION AND
EVANGELISM**

Ray Jones, Associate Director, shared information about the new Formation and Evangelism ministry area. This area is made up of the following offices:

- 1001 New Worshiping Communities
- Church Transformation
- Evangelism
- Collegiate, Youth, and Young Adult.

Work will start to develop a strategy in consultation with mid-councils and other ministry areas in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The development of this strategy will increase the health and effectiveness of local churches.

**INFORMATION
REPORT D.203 –
COLLEGIATE
MINISTRIES AND
UKIRK REPORT**

Jason Santos, Coordinator for Youth, Collegiate and Young Adult Ministries presented the report. The Office of Collegiate Ministries continues to strengthen ties with Presbyterian college chaplains and is currently involved in the Presbyterian College Chaplains Association's planning for an interfaith dialogue conference scheduled for the spring of 2016. The office also was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Funding Individual Spiritual Health (F.I.S.H.) Foundation, Inc. to take twelve campus ministers/chaplains to the Taizé Community in May/June 2016.

UKirk Network – the network has continued to grow with twenty-four new UKirk chapters. UKirk Cohort Project was launched with a successful pilot cohort in the state of Virginia.

A new website was created to draw closer ties to young adult websites, "What's Next What's Now." In addition a devotional app for iPhones that draws texts and prayers from the daily lectionary.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church has begun the process of adopting the UKirk branding for their college ministries.

**INFORMATION
REPORT D.204 –
CHURCHWIDE
CONFERENCE ON
RACE, ETHNICITY,
RACISM, AND
ETHNOCENTRICITY**

Sterling Morse, Coordinator for Intercultural Ministries, gave an update on progress on a referral from 221st General Assembly to have a churchwide conference on race, ethnicity, racism, and ethnocentricity. The Moderator was asked to appoint a ten member planning team. The conference will be held in November 5-7, 2015, at Stony Point Conference Center.

**INFORMATION
REPORT D.205 –
INTERCULTURAL
MINISTRIES**

Sterling Morse presented this report. This office engages the church in its vision to become truly intercultural and to practice cultural humility, as we seek to better appreciate, reflect, and engage in the communities around us.

In collaboration with the Presbyterian Intercultural Network, this office inspires congregations and mid-councils to develop strategies and coordinate efforts for intercultural ministries.

The Intercultural Ministries Office equips and connects leaders through intercultural church conference and trainings. It also gathers young adults for meetings of the Presbyterian Young Adult Network.

**GENERATIVE
DISCUSSION**

The committee held a brief generative discussion around the following questions:

- From the previous reports, what do you feel is the most life-giving, the most exciting, the most hopeful for you and our denomination?
 - worshiping together, information about new programs and efforts,
- How can we as board members take this information to energize and inform our congregations, presbyteries and communities?
 - Videos, sound bite statistics, speak louder than just printed reports, members would like to have more visual and practical resources. Invite staff to share information with their local churches or presbyteries.

**JOINT SESSION WITH
LEADERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

The committee moved into a joint session with the Leadership Committee to listen to three information reports.

**INFORMATION
REPORT C.204 – 2016
PRESBYTERIAN
YOUTH TRIENNIUM**

The 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be held in July 19-23, 2016 at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. The theme for the event is GO – Strongly Echoing Jesus’ command to “go into the world making disciples.” Special attention has been given to the budget process for the 2016 event. Registration is projected to open in early 2016.

**INFORMATION
REPORT C.205 –
INTRODUCTION OF
COORDINATOR OF
BUDGET AND MISSION
EFFECTIVENESS**

Chip Hardwick introduced Simone Adams-Andrade who has been named Coordinator for Budget and Mission Effectiveness in the new Theology, Formation and Evangelism ministry area. In this position, Simone will assist the Director in guiding strategic development of programs in cooperation with ministry staff to ensure accomplishment of mission goals, guide budgetary planning of the mission area, and compliance with Presbyterian Mission Agency policies and processes.

**INFORMATION
REPORT C.206 –
INTRODUCTION TO
THE THEOLOGY,
FORMATION AND
EVANGELISM
MINISTRY AREA**

Chip Hardwick shared information about the new structure of the mission ministry he directs.

**ADJOURN WITH
APPRECIATION AND
PRAYERS**

David Shinn expressed thanks and appreciation for each of the Worshiping Communities Committee and the Justice Committee members and closed the joint meeting with prayer at 6:00 p.m. The Worshiping Communities Committee adjourned immediately after the closing of the joint session.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Shinn, Chair

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

Alejandra Sherman, Recorder