

ITEM B.102 FOR ACTION

FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY					
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance		J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation		P. Plenary
	C. Leadership		G. Audit		
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee		

Subject: Half in Ten Campaign

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve adding the Half in Ten Campaign to the Approved Affiliates List. That the Office of Public Witness (OPW) and other program areas be given permission to work with this coalition and the related TalkPoverty.org blog on issues of poverty and economic inequality.

Background:

When the Presbyterian Church adopted a contemporary Confession of Faith in 1967, it stated that “reconciliation...through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world’s poor is the cause of his disciples... A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God” (*The Confession of 1967*, 9.46).

The Half in Ten campaign is a project of the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the Coalition on Human Needs (of which the PC(USA) is a dues-paying member), and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. It is dedicated to building the political and public will to cut the U.S. poverty rate in half in 10 years.

The campaign builds on the work of the Center for American Progress’s 2007 Task Force on Poverty, combining evidence-based policy recommendations with strategic building of networks, spokespeople, and opinion leaders in communities to amplify the call to reduce poverty in America. Their approach is grounded in four fundamental goals: creating good jobs, promoting economic security, strengthening families, and cutting poverty in half in 10 years.

The Half in Ten campaign recently launched a new #TalkPoverty blog on which are posted regular reflections, analyses, and other information related to poverty and economic inequality. TalkPoverty.org is a bridge between local and national voices, grassroots activism and policy work, and those who are struggling and those who are more economically secure. At TalkPoverty.org, readers are invited to discover and join a vibrant antipoverty community. TalkPoverty.org intentionally seeks faith voices and has invited Office of Public Witness staff to contribute as guest bloggers.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD

September 17-19, 2014

Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry Area

Many of the Office of Public Witness' partners, both secular and faith-based, are engaged with the Half in Ten campaign and TalkPoverty.org, whose mission is entirely commensurate with PC(USA) public witness on the atrocity of poverty. Engaging with this campaign would put more expert analysis at the fingertips of PMA staff and would allow more public information sharing and promotion of OPW materials and vice versa.

Approving the Half in Ten Campaign as an affiliate does not imply endorsement of the larger Center for American Progress Action Fund and its other policy initiatives and goals.