

**ITEM C.108**  
**ACTION ITEM FOR GAC BUSINESS**

<i>FOR GAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Evangelism	D. Vocation	G. PC(USA), A Corporation
	B. Justice	E. Stewardship	H. Executive Committee
X	C. Discipleship	F. Audit	I. Personnel Committee
	P. Plenary		

**Subject:**  
**Comment to Overture 77 to 218<sup>th</sup> GA (2008)**

**Recommendation:**

The GAC approve the following comment to the 218th General Assembly on Overture 77:

The General Assembly Council affirms the initiative that Living Waters for the World, Waterlines, Inc., Marion Medical Mission, numerous Joining Hands Against Hunger Networks, international presbytery partnerships, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Church World Service, and other Presbyterian groups have taken to respond in different ways to the critical need for clean drinking water in hundreds of communities around the world. The GAC lifts up the work that Living Waters for the World has done to educate congregations about this issue as an example of a Presbyterian organization recognizing a critical need and working to address it. Because Living Waters for the World is only one of many mission initiators working to address this issue, it is appropriate for the General Assembly to both affirm and encourage all Presbyterians working on this critical issue.

Given the escalating worldwide water crisis and in the spirit of the Dallas Consultation on the Worldwide Mission of the Church (Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX, January 16-18 2008), staff from World Mission and Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry Areas are inviting interested Presbyterians to attend a Mission Consultation on Water during which a new water network will be formed. This will allow the full spectrum of Presbyterians and others working on water issues to come together to share information and best practices. This initial consultation will take place in Sacramento, CA, from November 13-16, 2008.

**Overture 077**

*On Requesting that the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Celebrate the Mission “Living Waters for the World” and View a Video Describing that Ministry*

**Recommendation:**

**The Presbytery of Holston overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to celebrate with us the life-changing impact of “Living Waters for the World” as a clear, proven example of the shared future of mission as described in “An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God’s Mission,” and respectfully requests that the video, “Clean Water for All of God’s Children,” or a portion thereof, be shown to the assembled body of commissioners.**

**Rationale:**

**Living Waters for the World**, a mission of the Synod of Living Waters, has proven to be a tangible way to share and show God’s love, engaging in mission with living water for our souls. **Living Waters for the World** trains and equips volunteer mission teams to partner with communities throughout the world in need of clean water. Teams trained by **Living**

**Waters for the World** work closely with community leaders to install a water treatment system, and to educate the community about the appropriate use of clean water.

Since the inception of the **Living Waters for the World** training program in 2004, the Holy Spirit has moved within this mission in amazing ways:

- Over 500 volunteers have been trained from 29 states and 8 other nations, including Mexico, Guatemala, Kenya, Ghana and Madagascar. These volunteers span the ideological and theological spectrum, yet stand joyfully together in mission.
- 170 water systems have been installed in 150 communities in 19 nations, dramatically impacting the long-term health and well-being of over 50,000 of our brothers and sisters throughout the world
- **Living Waters for the World** three-year program is a model of partnership exemplifies the concept of "mission as relationship" and the empowerment of the communities served
- The potential for continued exponential growth is evident, as more training sessions are added each year, and awareness throughout the denomination continues to grow with recognition such as being a 2007 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering recipient and the designated mission project of the 2008 *Rainforest Adventure* Vacation Bible School curriculum

**An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission**, the vision document produced from the January 2008 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission consultation, "Renewed Call to Presbytery in the World: A Dialogue for our Shared Future", calls us to covenant to live out our mission according to the following values:

1. Trusting in the Holy Spirit and trusting in one another as each discerns how God is moving us in mission. (Acts 10)
2. Doing mission in the way of Jesus who humbled himself, showing the way of self-giving and self-emptying. (Philippians 2)
3. Seeking to be faithful to God as we live and personally witness to those outside the church, justice for the oppressed and compassion for those in need. We accompany others in their efforts to be faithful. (Luke 4)
4. Affirming the complementary nature of God's gifts and encouraging one another in living out those gifts. (I Corinthians 12)
5. Recognizing our responsibility to each other by communicating openly, acting transparently and speaking and hearing the truth in love. (Ephesians 4)
6. Striving in our mission to be aware of the context out of which we come, to respect the persons with whom we labor and to honor the context in which they live. In an era of massive global inequalities we commit ourselves to be sensitive to and address the issues of power that result from our differences. (Philippians 2)
7. Valuing long-term relationships, partnerships characterized by perseverance and long-term commitments which support and encourage global partners. (I Thessalonians 2)

This presbytery believes that **Living Waters for the World** embodies these values and, in a desire to lift up this example to the greater church, respectfully requests that the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopt this overture of celebration.