

ITEM 210
INFORMATION ITEM FOR GAC BUSINESS

Subject:

2008 NEW IMMIGRANT PRESBYTERIAN GROUPS MINISTRIES CONVOCATION

Background:

HISTORY: The National Presbyterian New Immigrants event has been conducted annually, over a weekend, by invitation only. It has been the main leadership-gathering event under the sponsorship of the G.A.C. office of New Immigrant Groups Ministries in the USA (NIGM).

PURPOSE: Participants will develop common working strategies by sharing challenges, opportunities, and strengths in new immigrant ministries connected with the PC (USA)

PLACE AND DATE: Louisville, KY on September 11-13, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

1. Pastors and lay leaders from PC (USA) new immigrant fellowships representing people from Africa, South Asian (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh), Portuguese-speaking countries, and the French/English Caribbean.
2. Presbytery/Synod staff and committee members related to new church development ministry with new immigrants.
3. GAC/OGA/BOP staff and Racial Ethnic National Caucuses' members as presenters.

SCHOLARSHIPS: NIGM will provide full scholarships to pastors and lay leaders in charge of the PC (USA) new immigrant fellowships and specialized ministries. For middle governing representatives and GAC/OGA/BOP staff, their organizations will cover traveling costs while this office will provide all other expenses. A registration fee of \$150 will be collected from new immigrant participants only.

PLANNING: will be developed in conjunction with the NIGM Advisory Committee members under the review of the evaluation forms from previous years. The methodology will be a constructive dialogue with middle governing bodies and G.A.C. representatives

PROGRAM: will be divided into three basic components:

1. **Dialogue:** group dynamics among new immigrant leaders and middle governing bodies' representatives to share common limitations, strengths, and opportunities in the areas of leadership development, organization of fellowships, empowerment of women and young adults, immigration reforms, and networking. Together, they will identify strategies to improve the implementation of the G.A. Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism and Church Growth Strategy.
2. **Story telling:** the three groups representing South Asians, African/Caribbean, and the Portuguese Language ministries will communicate their stories while doing ministry in the denomination.
3. **Celebration:** Multicultural Worship Service and Cultural Night.

SUMMARY:

Starting this year, the Conference will be transformed:

- From a training event into a convocation to share challenges, opportunities, and strengths by area ministries;
- For pastors and lay leaders of new immigrant Bible study/fellowships only. New Immigrants NCD and chartered congregations will not be included;
- By using a dialogue methodology with middle governing bodies' and G.A.C. representatives;
- Held in Louisville, KY, to provide opportunities for participants to visit the G.A.C./OGA offices;
- The three general groups will share stories of their ministries in PC (USA).
- Evaluation: periodically, by the production and implementation of a working document.