

**Report A.001**  
**EVANGELISM AND WITNESS GOAL AREA COMMITTEE**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL**  
**February 13-15, 2008**

**The Evangelism and Witness Goal Area Committee met on Thursday, February 14, 2007 in Louisville, KY and forwards the following to the General Assembly Council:**

**For Consent**

1. That the GAC approve and forward to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly the:
  - Evangelism and Church Growth (Attachment 1)
  - Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women (Attachment 2)
  - and World Mission portion of the General Assembly Council reports. (Attachment 3)
2. That the GAC approve the Institutional Standards for Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering. (Attachment 4)

**For Action-**

- A. The General Assembly Council recommends to the 218th General Assembly (2008) to Grow God's Church – Deep and Wide by: *(As approved by the GAC during its plenary session on 2/15/08)*
  1. Declaring a church-wide commitment to participate in God's activity in transforming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) during the 2009 - 2010 biennium.
  2. Encouraging synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit to grow the church Deep and Wide in the following areas:
    - a. **Grow** the Church: Invite persons to attend. Baptize children and adults. Increase our congregations.
    - b. **Grow in** Discipleship: Rediscover Scripture. Nurture spirituality. Affirm our Reformed heritage. Embrace Stewardship in all of life.
    - c. **Grow into** Diversity: Welcome everyone. Learn from others. Reflect the world.
  3. Encouraging the General Assembly Council to support the whole church's commitment to grow God's Church – Deep and Wide in its ministries and mission.
  4. Inviting the whole church to commit their prayers, gifts, resources, and time during 2009-2010, to discern God's Call to grow the church.
- B. That the General Assembly Council affirm and adopt the invitation to a more collaborative model of Presbyterian mission as in "An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission." (Dallas Consultation – Attachment 6 )

**For Information**

1. The Evangelism and Witness Committee received the following items for information:
  - Year-End Progress Report from the Office of Financial Aid for Studies.
  - 2008 9<sup>th</sup> National Multicultural Church Conference
  - Multicultural Internship Program Website.
  
2. The Evangelism and Witness Committee approved and recommends sending to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly the Task Force's "Strategy for African American Church Growth within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)."
  - *Reaffirmed that it is part of the 1998 Church Growth Strategy.*
  - *Declared that it is already included in the 2009-2012 Mission Work Plan*
  - *Encouraged the Operational Plan Team and Budget Team to include the recommendations in its Operational and Budgetary Mission Work Plan Operational Goals*
  
2. The Evangelism and Witness Committee approved Noushim Framke to serve as representative on the PW Global Exchange to Eastern Europe, September 8–26, 2008.
  
4. The Evangelism and Witness Committee approved the recommendation to direct the office of Research Services to include all models of multicultural congregations among the types of PCUSA churches surveyed in the Stated Clerk Annual Congregational Statistical Report in consultation with the office of Multicultural Ministries and the Presbyterian Multicultural Network.
  
3. The Evangelism and Witness Committee approved the minutes from the September 20<sup>th</sup> 2007 GAC meeting.
  
6. The Evangelism and Witness Committee requested Ellen Rexing to continue serving on the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Coordinating Team, Creative Ministries Offering Committee until the meeting in September. The Committee will elect a new representative to serve on CMOC for the term 2008 – 2011 at its meeting in September 2008.
  
7. The Evangelism and Witness Committee elected Michael J. Castronis as Chair, and Jacquelin Lyman as Vice-Chair for 2008-2009.
  
8. The Evangelism and Witness Committee concurs with the Leadership and Vocation Committee on the Mission Funding Imperative recommendation:
  - a. That the GAC affirm the priority of maintaining an appropriate number of PC(USA) international mission personnel.
  - b. That the GAC instruct staff to bring to the April GAC meeting a proposal as to the costs and possible funding sources to support this number of international mission personnel for GAC action.

**Report #A 101 Evangelism and Church Growth portion of the General Assembly Council report to the 218<sup>th</sup> GA (2008).**

**I. Referrals in Progress**

1. 2003*Referral: Item 09-01. Reclaiming the Vision: A Mission Strategy to Strengthen the partnership Between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Its Related Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Recommendation 9. That the General Assembly Require the National Ministries Division, Higher Education Program Area, to Return to the General Assembly with a Progress Report in Three Years, and a Full Assessment of the Response to the Recommendations in the Report in Five Years—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 24, 523).*

**Response:** The General Assembly Council will provide a full assessment of the response to the recommendations at the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010). Due to the General Assembly Council restructure, the dissolution of the National Ministries Division in the fall of 2006 and the closure of the Higher Education Program Area in 2002 the final report has been delayed. Progress has been made by the GAC by recommitting to the covenant with the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities and by reasserting an emphasis by GAC leadership to visit the Presbyterian related Colleges and Universities in the last year. The Executive Director has had numerous visits to related Colleges and Universities in the last two years and was in attendance at the APCU annual meeting in 2007.

**II. Final Response to Referrals**

1. 2006 *Referral: Item 12-12 Older Adult Ministry Task Force Report and Recommendations*

**Response:** The recommendations from the 217th General Assembly (2006) regarding older adult ministry were approved contingent upon the availability of financial resources and future General Assembly Council structure. In May 2006, prior to the 217th General Assembly (2006), the Office of Older Adult Ministry was closed, as part of the budget reductions. Nonetheless, significant work in the areas of Older Adult Ministry has been possible through other offices within the General Assembly Council.

- Resources for Older Adult Ministry published, revised, distributed within the past two years include:
  - *Older Adult Week Planning Guide*
  - *AGenda* (a quarterly newsletter concerning ministry with older adults and issues such as the life stages, circumstances, and transitions of older adults.)
  - *Dimensions of Older Adult Ministry: A Handbook* by Richard L. Morgan
  - *Older Adult Ministry: A Guide for Presbytery Committees*
  - *Older Adult Ministry: A Guide for Sessions*
- Stewardship resources for baby boomers and Gen Xers have been made available on the Presbyterian Church (USA) stewardship website: [www.pcusa.org/stewardship](http://www.pcusa.org/stewardship).
- While the Office of Older Adult Ministries no longer exists, the GAC and the Board of Pensions work with the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors, to sponsor retiree events at the presbytery level.

- The General Assembly Council supports and promotes the work of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network through the Mission Interpretation office of Communications and Funds Development..
- The General Assembly Council has created, produced, and promoted resources for evangelism with baby boomers and Gen Xers through its *Here and Now* campaign. For more information regarding *Here and Now*, visit [www.pcusa.org/hereandnow](http://www.pcusa.org/hereandnow).
- The General Assembly Council promotes accessibility, in all its forms, through an annual “Access Sunday” emphasis.
- The General Assembly Council promotes parish nursing as part of its comprehensive resources for healthy congregations, through its National Health Ministries Office. Specific resources about parish nursing can be found online at [www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/parishnursing](http://www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/parishnursing). The GAC seeks to strengthen the communication network among all health ministry practitioners.
- The General Assembly Council has highlighted health disparities that exist in the United States, and their root causes in poverty, racism, and other historic barriers to healthcare, through the Washington Office, National Health Ministries, and the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association.
- The General Assembly Council has entered in a covenant with the Presbyterian Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (PAHSA) in order to collaborate in efforts concerning housing options, elder day care, senior centers, home health and housing services.

Funding was not available for the following work:

- Distance learning opportunities, such as on-line courses, teleconferences, and web-casts to increase leadership skills in aging issues, have not been possible within the available financial resources of the General Assembly Council.
- That the General Assembly Council, authorize funding of an Older Adult Ministries Review Team consisting of five persons to meet annually for ten years to review the progress of older adult ministries and report to the General Assembly Council, the church’s progress on these recommendations at the 218<sup>th</sup>, 219<sup>th</sup>, 220<sup>th</sup>, and 221<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies.

2. *2002 Referral: Item 11-05. Commissioners’ Resolution 02-10. On Affirming the Church Growth Strategy Report (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 25, 565–66).*

**Response:** The *Vision for Church Growth for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* and the *Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism and Church Growth Strategy* have been foundational works in the reorganization of the General Assembly Council’s Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area.

**The first ever General Assembly Council National Presbyterian Evangelism Conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee in the fall of 2007, with more than 500 Presbyterians attending. There were sixty workshops on a myriad of subjects and engaging worship through out the conference.**

**Training for New Church Development pastors, coaches, and presbytery staff has increased to an all-time high. Currently there are 50 NCD coaches that are trained and working in the denomination with another 35 NCD projects waiting for a coach.**

**Multicultural churches are growing in the denomination and the Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area was able to add field staff in 2007 to accompany churches on their transition to becoming a multicultural church.**

**Mission Program Grants office funded 205 new and ongoing projects across 101 presbyteries in 16 synods being supported by General Assembly Council Mission Program Grants. Projects funded include new church developments and helping to transform existing congregations.**

3. *2004 Referral: Item 09-15. On Directing the National Ministries Division (NMD) to Develop a Plan for Resourcing and Funding Evangelism with Racial Ethnic Persons and Persons of Limited Economic Resources—From the Presbytery of Miami (Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 42, 668–69).*

**Response:** The General Assembly Council’s Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area through the Small Church and Community ministries office has a plan that works in partnership with other GAC ministries like Racial Ethnic Congregational Enhancement offices, the Self-Development of People program, the Hunger program, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, and the Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association to resource and fund ministries that reach out and tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to Racial Ethnic persons and persons with limited economic resources.

4. *2006 Referral: Item 12-08. On Combating the Decline in Members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—From the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 14–15, 1064–66)..*

**Response:** The restructure of the General Assembly Council focused the work of an entire ministry area on Evangelism and Church Growth. The GAC also made combating the decline of members a priority in the councils mission work plan for 2007-2008.

In 2007, the GAC completed a research survey looking at the factors that were consistent in the fastest growing congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In addition the Evangelism and Church Growth area also published and distributed a resource named the Vital Signs of Urban Congregations, a book that promoted models of ministry, which highlight communities of faith that are actively growing in discipleship and numbers.

5. *2004 Referral: Item 12-03. On Confronting Christian Zionism, Recommendation 7. To Urge Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Related Colleges and Seminaries to Address this Issue—From the Presbytery of Chicago (Minutes, 204,Part I, pp. 67–70, 856).*

**Response:** The Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area of the General Assembly Council called an Associate for Collegiate Ministries in August of 2007. The Colligate Ministries office, Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, and the Committee on Theological Education have communicated with Colleges, Universities, and Presbyterian Seminaries on the issues of Christian Zionism and Eschatological theology; if there is evidence of value in further conversations those three entities will continue to collaborate in educating Presbyterian students on these matters.

6. *2006 Referral: Item 12-12. Report, Older Adult Ministries Task Force, Recommendation 2.a.(4). That the General Assembly Encourage the Ongoing Relationship Between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Board of Pensions and the Office of Older Adult Ministries to Ensure the Long-Term Financial Viability of the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 14–15, 1069).*

**Response:** For the General Assembly Council coordinated response to Item 12-12, and all recommendations in 12-12 see Evangelism and Church Growth General Assembly Report Final Response number 1.

7. *2006 Referral: Item 12-12. Report, Older Adult Ministries Task Force, Recommendation 2.f. That the General Assembly Council Authorize Funding of an Older Adult Ministries Review Team Consisting of Five Persons to Meet Annually for Ten Years to Review the Progress of Older Adult Ministries and Report to the General Assembly at the 218th, 219th, 220th, and 221st General Assemblies (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014) as Funding Is Available—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 14–15, 1071).*

**Response:** For the General Assembly Council coordinated response to Item 12-12, and all recommendations in 12-12 see Evangelism and Church Growth General Assembly Report Final Response number 1.

8. *2006 Referral: Item 12-12. Report, Older Adult Ministries Task Force, Recommendation 2.c. That the General Assembly Council, Through the Office of Evangelism and Witness and in Collaboration with the Office of Older Adult Ministries, Develop Congregational Evangelism Resources Targeted at Baby Boomers (Persons Born 1946–1964) and Gen Xer's (Born 1965–1980) in the Life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 14–15, 1070).*

**Response:** For the General Assembly Council coordinated response to Item 12-12, and all recommendations in 12-12 see Evangelism and Church Growth General Assembly Report Final Response number 1.

### **III. Recommendations**

#### **1. That the 218th General Assembly approve the following list of colleges and universities as those related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):**

Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; Alma College, Alma, MI; Arcadia University, Glenside, PA; Austin College, Sherman, TX; Barber-Scotia College, Concord, NC; Belhaven College, Jackson, MS; Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL; Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, NJ; Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA; Carroll College, Waukesha, WI; Centre College, Danville, KY; Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA; The College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID; College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO; The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH; Cook School for Christian Leadership, Tempe, AZ; Davidson College, Davidson, NC; Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV; Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL; Grove City College, Grove City, PA; Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, VA; Hanover College, Hanover, IN; Hastings College, Hastings, NE; Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL; Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND; Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC;

King College, Bristol, TN; Knoxville College, Knoxville, TN; Lafayette College, Easton, PA; Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL; Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC; Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO; Lyon College, Batesville, AR; Macalester College, St. Paul, MN; Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA; Maryville College, Maryville, TN; Millikin University, Decatur, IL; Missouri Valley College, Marshall, MO; Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL; Montreat College, Montreat, NC;

**Report A.001**  
**Evangelism And Witness Goal Area Committee**  
**General Assembly Council**  
**February 13-15, 2008**

Muskingum College, New Concord, OH; Peace College, Raleigh, NC; Pikeville College, Pikeville, KY; Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC; Queens University of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC; Rhodes College, Memphis, TN; Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT; St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC; Schreiner University, Kerrville, TX; Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka, AK;

Sterling College, Sterling, KS; Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL; Trinity University, San Antonio, TX; Tusculum College, Greeneville, TN; Universidad InterAmericana de Puerto Rico, San Juan PR; University of Dubuque, Dubuque, IA; University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, AR; University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK; Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC; Waynesburg University, Waynesburg, PA; Westminster College, Fulton, MO; Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA; Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT, Whitworth University, Spokane, WA; Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA.

**Further, that the 218th General Assembly approve the following list of secondary schools as those related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):**

Bachman Academy, McDonald, TN; Blair Academy, Blairstown, NJ; Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, Port Gibson, MS; French Camp Academy, French Camp, MS; Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM; Presbyterian Pan-American School, Kingsville, TX; Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, Rabun Gap, GA; Thornwell Home & School for Children, Clinton, SC; Wasatch Academy, Mt Pleasant, UT.

**Report # A106 Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women portion of the General Assembly Council report to the 218<sup>th</sup> GA (2008).**

***Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women***

**I. Referrals in Progress**

1. *2002 Referral: Item 11-02.* Report: A Comprehensive Strategy for Ministries with Native American: 2002 Supplemental Recommendations of the General Assembly Special Task Force on Native American Ministries, *Recommendation 4, That a Report on Implementation of the Recommended Strategies Be Presented to the 219th General Assembly (2010), in Coordination with Native American Consulting Committee and Appropriate General Assembly Entities—From the General Assembly Council* (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 559).

**Response:** Report to be presented at the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010).

**II. Final Responses to Referrals**

1. *2003 Referral: Item 09-03.* Strategy for Ministry with Hispanic-Latino Constituencies in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *Recommendation 6. That the General Assembly Request the General Assembly Council, Through Its National Ministries Division, Racial Ethnic Ministries Program Area, and the Office of Hispanic Congregational Enhancement, to Organize a National Consultation Event in 2006 to Determine How Best to Implement the Strategy, Explore the Issues Raised by It, and Monitor the Progress of the Recommendations and Report Its Findings to the 218th General Assembly (2008)—From the General Assembly Council* (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 25, 532).

**Response:** In response to the 215<sup>th</sup> GA (2003) action, a consultation was held in October 2005, in Dallas, TX. Participants at the consultation determined that developing a manual for implementation was the most effective way to engage the whole church into this ministry effort. In 2006, a *Manual for Implementation* was created and distributed to all Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian churches, organizations and related ministries. And, *The Strategy for Ministry with Hispanic-Latino Constituencies* is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese at [www.pcusa.org/hispanic](http://www.pcusa.org/hispanic). From July 2004-December 2005, thirty-two presentations and workshops on Hispanic church development were presented to sixteen presbyteries, three synods, two theological seminaries, and at six national events. These events were coordinated together with middle governing bodies and the Hispanic Congregational Enhancement Office. The Office of Youth Ministry developed specific workshops to be offered at youth leader development events and conferences. A progress report was reported to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2006) (*Minutes*, 2006, Part 1, pp.90-91, 99). Bilingual curriculum materials in Spanish are available for youth: *Lecciones Cristianas Para Jóvenes*. Portuguese translation of these resources is under development. The General Assembly Council is aware of the need for resources in various languages and is investigating ways that this can be done.

The National Hispanic/Latino Caucus, the Hispanic Congregational Enhancement Office Advisory Committee, and General Assembly Council staff are implementing a five to ten-year plan. The implementation started in 2007 with two synods, the Hispanic caucus, and the Annual Gatherings of Women, Youth and of the caucus at the Assembly in 2007. Plans in 2008 include training in four synods with the Hispanic caucus.

2. *2004 Referral: Item 10-01. Recommendation 8. To Direct Racial Ethnic Ministries to Assist the National Presbyterian Black Caucus to Develop a Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 56, 683).*

**Response:** See Report, Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations in Section III Recommendations #1.

3. *2006 Referral: Item 09-15. On Advocacy and Welcome for All Immigrants—From the Presbytery of New York City, Recommendation 9. Direct the General Assembly Council to Create and Facilitate a Network of “Immigrant Welcome” Churches That Agree with the Affirmations of This Overture (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 50, 51, 881).*

**Response:** The Office of New Immigrant Groups Ministries in the U.S.A. in the Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/PW ministries area worked in collaboration with the Office of the General Assembly, who in 2006 created the network of Presbyterians for Just Immigration, with participation from middle governing bodies and congregations. Workshops and presentations on welcoming new immigrants into our denomination were offered in two Synods and nine Presbyteries in 2007.

4. *2006 Referral: Item 10-06. Report: Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities, Recommendation 2.c.(8). That the General Assembly Council Direct the Racial Ethnic Congregational Enhancement, Middle Eastern Ministries, Immigrant Group Ministries, and Evangelism and Racial Cultural Diversity Offices, in Partnership with the Racial Ethnic Caucuses, the Coordinating Councils and Networks of These Offices, Social Welfare Organization Offices, and with All Governing Bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Develop Strategies for the Full and Faithful Implementation of This Policy—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 49, 50, 920–21).*

**Response:** The Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministries area engages with racial ethnic caucuses, coordinating councils, networks, and governing bodies. The ministry works to educate the church about the inclusion of all people in all ministries of the church, including the full inclusion of people with disabilities. The initial response for the implementation of the “Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities” policy entailed seeking understanding and sensitivity to the issues involved in developing strategies for the inclusion of people with disabilities. The first step, therefore, was for the Racial Ethnic Congregational Enhancement offices to contact racial ethnic caucuses, coordinating councils, networks, other constituency groups, and governing bodies to acquaint them with the report. A portion of the letter, sent along with the report, follows:

*The policy affirms the Church’s efforts to ensure that buildings and grounds are physically accessible and inviting to persons with disabilities. The policy paper “Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities,” affirms that all the entities of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are to take appropriate steps to ensure that members with disabilities are fully included in the ministries of the Church. The policy also provides a theological understanding of living with disabilities, and encourages advocacy with and on behalf of people with disabilities in local, national and international contexts. This policy paper also includes a study guide. You are encouraged to use this policy paper as a resource for your continuing efforts in helping the Church and the larger community to be a more inclusive place for persons with disabilities. Thank you for reviewing this policy paper, which was approved by the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2006) and for your part in developing strategies to help the whole church live into the body of Christ.*

As justice for all is an important value in the General Assembly Council and in our ministry area, we plan to follow up this contact by developing and implementing strategies in partnership with the caucuses and councils for a full and faithful response to the recommendation.

5. *2006 Referral: Item 12-12. Report, Older Adult Ministries Task Force, Recommendation 2.d.(5). That the General Assembly Council, Through the Racial Ethnic Program Area and in Collaboration with the Office of Older Adult Ministries, Produce Resources, Workshops, Conferences, Seminars, and Health Fairs That Will Focus on Special Aging Concerns and Health Care Disparities of Racial Ethnic Persons—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 14–15, 1070).*

**Response:** With the new structure approved by the General Assembly in 2006, there is no longer an office nor is there is a budget to complete this referral. However, some ministry with older adults is being done. For coordinated response and all recommendations of Item 12-12 see Evangelism and Church Growth General Assembly Report Final Response #1.

6. *2006 Referral Item: Item 12-13. Report: Racial Ethnic Education Support Work Group. That the 217th General Assembly (2006) Reaffirm the Church’s Mission of Racial Ethnic Educational Support and Its Commitment to the Historically Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Institutions (HPRI); That a Special Group Be Formed to Develop Educational Guidelines and Standards and a Method of Applying Them in Order to Ensure That the Christmas Joy Offering Supports Institutions That Can Most Effectively Serve Populations for Whom Access to Educational Opportunities Would Be Difficult and That the Educational Guidelines, Standards, and the Method for Applying Them Should Be Completed, Enacted, and Reported to the 218th General Assembly (2008); That Until Guidelines and Standards Are Established, the Christmas Joy Offering Continue to Be Used Exclusively for the HPREI’s with Whom the GAC Has Traditionally Covenanted; and that the GAC Consider Establishing a Special Fund and Case Statement to Help Meet the Unique Needs of the HPREI’s—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 14–15, 1081–82).*

**Response:** See Report, Christmas Joy Offering Institutional Standards in Section III Recommendations #2.

### **III Recommendations**

**That the 218<sup>th</sup> GA (2008) approve the Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations:**

- 1. The Task Force To Develop a Strategy for African American Church Growth Within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recommends that the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) do the following:**
  - a. Approve the report on “Developing An African American Church Growth Strategy.” within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**

#### **Rationale**

In light of the General Assembly mandate to increase racial ethnic membership in the PCUSA by 20% by the year 2010<sup>1</sup>, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus recognizes the

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<sup>1</sup> 210<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), June 12-20, 1998, Charlotte, North Carolina

critical necessity to take the lead in developing a Strategy for African American Evangelism and Church Growth.

We recognize that a disservice is done when focusing on models from the “mega-church” movement and trying to make those models adaptable and relevant for smaller churches. We also recognize that models which are successful for Anglo-American congregations and for non-African American congregations of color are not applicable to the African American church context.

*For these reasons, it is crucial that NBPC, working in concert with the Office of Black Congregational Enhancement (BCE), take the initiative and provide the impetus for transformation and growth of the Black Presbyterian Church.*

**b. Approve the following recommendations:**

1. Encourage the GAC, specifically, the Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area, to appoint a Task Force to monitor the progress of African American Church Growth and report to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010).
2. Encourage the General Assembly Council to partner with the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, presbyteries, and synods so that the strategies outlined below for African American Church Growth become a reality in the church at large. These strategies were approved at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the NBPC, held in Society Hill, Philadelphia on July 11-15, 2007.
3. Encourage presbyteries and synods to help the church to reach the goals established by the 1998 Racial Ethnic Immigrant Evangelism Church Growth Strategy.

**Background:**

Rationale

**[THIS REPORT IS A DRAFT AND REFINEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND.]**

These recommendations are a final response to the following referral: **2004 Referral: Item 10-01. Recommendation 8. To Direct Racial Ethnic Ministries to Assist the National Presbyterian Black Caucus to Develop a Strategy for Church Growth For African American Congregations – From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 56, 683).**

In light of the General Assembly mandate to increase racial ethnic membership in the PCUSA by 20% by the year 2010<sup>i</sup>; the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) recognizes the critical necessity to take the lead in developing a Strategy for African American Evangelism and Church Growth. Despite the issuance of the aforementioned mandate, we have not realized significant net growth in African American membership in the PCUSA.

African Americans have been a strong witness in the Presbyterian Church for more than 200 years, which is testimony to our strength, resolve, and commitment in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds. African Americans have given voice and shape to the denominational structure. As it strives to do what God requires of us: “to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8), and in light of our Christian witness, the Task Force, on behalf of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus,

invites the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to partner with us as we continue to celebrate our faith journey within our denomination.

Following are strategies which we encourage presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly offices to implement in order to ensure that the 1998 Racial Ethnic Immigrant evangelism Church Growth Strategy achieve the objective of increasing African American membership in The Presbyterian Church USA.

**a. *New Church Development and Transformation: Create a congregational-based educational resource and initiative.***

**Rationale:** This initiative will be designed to assist African American congregations to develop alternative ways of initiating and promoting New Church Developments and Transformation churches. This will include churches in transition in their respective presbyteries, with an emphasis on restoring what we perceive as a lost connection with our communities.

**b. *Leadership Development:***

- i. *Create an Evangelism and Missional Church Institute for African American pastors and congregational members to train and equip Pastors for a missional approach to church growth.***
- ii. *Develop a uniform standard for training Commissioned Lay Pastors***
- iii. *Sponsor annual discernment events with prospective African American youth and young adult inquirers.***
- iv. *Establish Teaching Congregations***

**Rationale:** Missional theology maintains that the mission of the church *is* the mission of God. God is a missionary God Who sent Jesus Who sends us to carry out the *missio dei*. The Evangelism and Missional Church Institute will serve as a repository of talent and knowledge for Pastors and congregational leaders. The institute will provide workshops, lectures, and seminars in the missional approach to church growth.

The future of African American Presbyterians is dependent upon a deep reserve of talented and gifted pastors, clergy, and lay profession. Discernment events will allow young and old alike to explore the various ministry tracks in which they may serve the church and fulfill God's call in their lives.

An emersion experience in a nurturing environment would provide pastors a fresh and challenging transformational setting for both a spiritual and vocational encounter. It is a sabbatical event and an opportunity to fine tune old skills and learn new insights for personal, community, and ecclesiastical transformation. Such a sabbatical experience will allow pastors to retool, refresh, and provide creative time to envision innovative strategies.

**c. *Youth and Young Adults:***

- i. *Provide leadership development institutes***
- ii. *Host annual gatherings to help shape their Christian witness within the Body of Christ, i.e., education and discipleship training.***
- iii. *To develop youth and young adult networks.***
  - a) *Encourage the use of electronic media.***
  - b) *Exchange of youth and young adult ministry models***

**Rationale:** Without the youth and young adults, the church will die. Youth and young adults will only stay with the church if they have a meaningful leadership voice and role, positions where they are able to see where their decisions take effect.

The Institute needs to establish a future leaders component of the institute to help those who hear God's call and are inquiring of next steps. Youth and young adults need a place beyond the church's immediate environment to explore and nurture their sense of call. They need a place where the approach is realistic and practical.

Fellowship and training opportunities are needed for young adults who have already answered the call to serve God. Many of our churches have a small segment of young adults for whom these gatherings will also create opportunities for networking with the larger body of Christ. As a vital part of the church today, youth and young adult options and dreams must be explored.

Youth and young adults communicate through electronic media. Their gifts in this area can be used as the vehicle to network and promote Christian witness in intergenerational ministry.

**d. Clergy Women:**

- i. Develop an accountability strategy for the calling of AA women as Senior Pastors*
- ii. Promote the call of women to viable and validated ministries.*
- iii. Design and create resources to emphasize and enhance awareness of the gifts of African American Clergy Women in the PCUSA.*

**Rationale:** The PCUSA for the last 33 years has acknowledged the gifts of Black women in ministry and has authenticated the call of Black women to serve in validated calls. However, the church still does not have an organized and systematic means to address the entrenched resistance in Presbyteries and congregations to call Black Women to validated ministries.

In several cases where females have been called to African American congregations, they are offered minimal salary, poor working conditions, and have to prove themselves in ways that are unthinkable by male pastors. Women pastors still have to settle for small, disgruntled congregations who, in many instances, only extend the call to a woman because a male pastor was not available.

The above reasons have resulted in a disparity in the number of women called to validated ministries.

Resources are needed (i.e. pamphlets) to highlight successful African American Ministry Models that can be used by Presbyteries, Committees on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), Committees on Ministry (COM) and Pastor Nominating Committees (PNC) for the purpose of supporting clergy women in their call.

**e. Evangelism:**

- i. Design creative ministries that attract our target population and encourage the development of a relationship with our faith community.*
- ii. Provide gatherings for ministers of music and worship leaders.*
- iii. Encourage partnerships between African Heritage Presbyterian Association of Musicians and congregations.*

**Rationale:** There is a need to create a network to research and develop creative ministry ideas to be shared among congregations. Each of these ministries will be designed to provide opportunities to share the gospel with the persons who participate in these ministries. The focus is to move beyond the

expectation that new persons will primarily enter our faith communities through traditional ministries (i.e. Worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, and special events).

Equipping congregations with resources to deepen their appreciation for music ministry, and the diversity of options that are available to them, is the by-product of this effort.

**2. That the 218<sup>th</sup> GA (2008) approve the following Institutional Standards for Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering:**

Institutional Standards for Participating  
in the Christmas Joy Offering

The Presbyterian Church (USA) and its predecessors have a long history of support for minority education. That support continues through the distribution of funds collected annually through the Christmas Joy Offering, one-half of which is designated for support of Historic Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Institutions (HPREI)<sup>2</sup>. In order to be a good steward of these funds and accountable to those who contribute to the offering, the church establishes the following formula for the dissemination monies from the Christmas Joy Offering designated for racial ethnic education.

**I. BASE GRANTS**

One half of the funds distributed shall be earmarked for Base Grants to institutions that meet the following criteria:

**A. Mission.** An institution must show evidence of commitment to the stated mission of its governing board and to the mission goals of the General Assembly Council (GAC) of the PC(USA). Those goals include:

1. Leadership and Vocation
2. Spirituality and Discipleship
3. Justice and Compassion
4. Evangelism and Witness

The evidence must demonstrate that an institution's mission is understood and supported by all of its constituent groups and must include a covenant between the institution and one or more church governing bodies and published statements in the institution's catalogue, promotional materials and other public documents.

**B. Audit.** By November 1 each year, an institution must provide to the church an independent audit by a Certified Public Accountant of the institution's financial condition during the previous fiscal year.

**C. Strategic Plan.** An institution must provide a current three- to five-year strategic plan for the institution's continued operation.

**D. Accreditation.**

1. Degree granting institutions must be accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting association. Institutions that are not accredited will have a three-year period in which to achieve accreditation.

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<sup>2</sup> These institutions include Barber Scotia College, Cook School for Christian Leadership, Johnson C. Smith University, Knoxville College, Sheldon Jackson College, Stillman College, Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School.

2. Non-degree granting institutions must have an alternative educational model **that** is consistent with their mission to educate racial ethnic students and has been approved by the General Assembly Council in lieu of accreditation.
3. Institutions must demonstrate how they provide financial support for students.

**E. Racial Ethnic Student Enrollment.** Enrollment of racial ethnic students must be demonstrated by an institution's mission and substantiated by the demographics of its student body.

## **II. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Of funds not earmarked for Base Grants:

### **A. Mission Validity**

Twenty percent (20%) will be available to institutions that demonstrate mission validity by meeting the following criteria. For each criteria that is met, an institution will receive one-sixth (1/6) of the total amount for which it is eligible based on mission validity.

#### **1. Evidence of Racial Ethnic Mission**

- a. An institution must demonstrate a racial ethnic composition within its student enrollment of at least fifty percent (50%).
- b. An institution must demonstrate that at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its students are financial disadvantaged and eligible for need-based aid.

#### **2. Evidence of Successful Educational Program**

- a. An institution must show evidence of having a qualified faculty to serve the enrolled student body.
- b. An institution must demonstrate a retention rate of at least seventy percent (70%) of its students from the first to the second year for colleges or from year to year for secondary schools.

#### **3. Evidence of Achievement**

- a. An institution must demonstrate a six-year persistence to graduation rate of at least forty percent (40%).
- b. An institution must have in place a systematic outcomes assessment program.

### **B. Institutional Viability.**

Twenty percent (20%) will be available to institutions that demonstrate institutional viability by meeting the following criteria. Accreditation without sanction by the appropriate regional accrediting association is a prerequisite to receiving Institutional Viability funds. For each of the other criteria met, an institution shall receive one-seventh (1/7) of the amount for which it is eligible.

#### **1. Evidence of Financial Integrity**

- a. An institution must show evidence of a balanced budget within constraints approved by its governing board.
- b. An institution must be able to produce an unqualified independent audit of financial operations for the previous fiscal year.

#### **2. Evidence of Long-Range Strength**

- a. An institution must show evidence of a systematic plan for raising funds to support the institution beyond what is received through tuition and financial aid.
- b. An institution must show a debt-to-net-worth ratio within the recommended limits of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

**3. Strength of Governing Board**

- a. An institution's governing board must broadly represent constituencies served by the institution and the public.
- b. An institution's governing board must demonstrate through financial support an active participation in the work of the board.
- c. An institution's governing board must demonstrate its responsibility for policy determination, oversight of the institution and respect for the boundaries of its responsibility.

**C. Contingency Funds**

Ten percent (10%) will be available for institutions faced with emergency costs that have no other means of covering those costs.

**III. SITE VISITS**

In order to ensure compliance with these standards, educational institutions that receive money from the Christmas Joy Offering will be reviewed every four years by a team that includes:

1. The president of a comparable institution
2. A person knowledgeable about the higher education evaluation process
3. A member of the General Assembly Council
4. The GAC Associate for Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges (ex officio)

**Report # A111 World Mission portion of the General Assembly Council Report to the 218<sup>th</sup> GA (2008).**

**I. Referrals in Progress**  
None

**II. Final Response to Referrals**

1. *Item 06-01. Recommendation 1. That the 216th General Assembly (2004) Approve the Expansion of Work Responding to the 1999 Referral to Better Equip the Church for Witness in a Pluralistic Society, to Be Designed and Carried Out by a Cross-Divisional Staff Team Coordinated by the Interfaith Relations Office*—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 19, 419).

*Item 06-01. Recommendation 2. That the 216th General Assembly (2004) Approve Development of One or More Study Resources for Congregational Use, to Equip Presbyterians in Better Articulation of Their Faith in Interreligious Contexts*—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 19, 419).

*Item 06-01. Recommendation 3. That a Final Report on This Project Be Presented to the 217th General Assembly (2006)*—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 19, 419).

**Response:** In consideration of the above, the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations has created a sub-committee on interfaith relations, to regularly review developments and needed actions on issues of an interfaith nature, based on input from the Office of Interfaith Relations. This regular process of review and response takes the place of a one-time review.

2. *Item 07-07. Recommendation 3. That the Office of Interfaith Relations Develop and the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations Review an Action Plan to Address Particular Issues of an Interfaith Nature, Building on Existing Policy*—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 16, 579).

**Response:** The GA Committee on Ecumenical Relations has created a sub-committee on interfaith relations, to regularly review developments and needed actions on issues of an interfaith nature, based on input from the Office of Interfaith Relations. This regular process of review and response takes the place of a one-time review.

3. *Item 07-10. Commissioners' Resolution. On Celebrating and Protecting Cuba Partnership*—(Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 1617, 58284).

(1) In regards to celebrating the partnership between the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

a. Request the Stated Clerk to send a formal communication to the Synod Council of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba expressing the joy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the continuing partnership with the autonomous and independent Presbyterian

Reformed Church in Cuba; congratulation that church on the forty years of its independent existence and on its significant contributions to the world ecumenical movement through leadership in the World Council of Churches, the Latin American Council of Churches, the Caribbean Council of Churches,

and the Cuban Council of Churches; and expressing thanksgiving for the twenty years of joint mission partnership under the terms of the Mutual Mission Agreement which has resulted in the remarkable growth of partnership relationships between the governing bodies and congregations of the two churches.

[Letter sent]

b. Request the Stated Clerk also to send a formal communication to the president and the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba, congratulating the seminary on its sixty years of significant contribution to the training of pastoral leadership for the Evangelical churches of Cuba and its valiant attempts to meet the challenge of the recent growth experienced by all the Cuban Christian churches. [Letter sent]

**Response:** In consideration of the above directives, letters have been sent as noted.

c. Request the Stated Clerk and the General Assembly Council, through its Worldwide Ministries Division, to seek a way to respond to the request of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary of Matanzas, Cuba, to send an official representative to the 60th Anniversary Celebration in October 2006.

**Response:** In consideration of the above, the Rev. Dean Lewis represented PC (USA) at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in October 2006.

d. Urge the committees and officials of the 217th General Assembly (2006) to make provision for commissioners to the General Assembly to hear directly from the Reverend Hector Mendez, moderator of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba.

**Response:** In consideration of the above, the Rev. Mendez addressed the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

4. *Item 08-17. Commissioners' Resolution. On the Moderator Convening a Meeting Regarding Worldwide Mission Work of the PC(USA)*—(Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 3637, 74647).

**Response:** See Section III Recommendations, #1

5. *Item 11-25. On Condemning International Trafficking in and Sexual Exploitation of Children—From the Synod of the Northeast. Recommendation 3. Direct the General Assembly Council to Educate Mission Workers About the Issue of International Trafficking in Children and Sex Tourism and to Familiarize Staff and Personnel with This Issue*—(Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 43, 45, 994).

**Response:** In consideration of the above, the World Mission Education, Training, & Events Area is educating mission workers about the issue of international trafficking in children and sex tourism through the work of Pat Hendrix, Sexual Misconduct Ombudsperson. During orientation, sharing conferences and mission personnel retreats Pat gives presentations on human trafficking (causes, who is trafficked, case studies of victims and perpetrators), and child sex tourism (what can be done and who to notify if you

suspect an American is involved in this practice). She also gives in-service training for PC (USA) staff on the same subjects.

6. *Item 11-30. On Promoting a Free, Fair, and Democratic Election in the Democratic Republic of Congo—From the Presbytery of New Hope* - (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 43, 45, 10089).

**Response:** In consideration of the above, a letter was sent out by the Stated Clerk on September 14, 2006 to the US Congress which included the following:

We asked that the Congress of the United States act upon the following goals:

- a. Send a bi-partisan Congressional Delegation to the Congo to assess the current situation.
- b. Utilize the resources of the U.S. government to increase support to the U.N. to stop armed conflicts that divide and kill people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- c. Support current efforts to bring unity and peace to the Congo as provided by the Global and Inclusive Accord.
- d. Provide significant financial support and other needed resources for the Congo's election and post-election expenses.
- e. Determine and utilize responsible channels for directing the use of this money for its intended purposes.
- f. Utilize the influence of the US Government to encourage the Congo's neighboring countries to cease their conflict and their interference in the Congo's internal affairs.
- g. Urge the Congolese government to place the education of its children and youth as a high priority by:
  - 1). Providing a free, appropriate education in primary and secondary schools and
  - 2). Paying teachers living wages.

A news article appearing in IRIN news confirmed on 29 October that the Congo Supreme Court did confirm Joseph Kabila Kabange as the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

KINSHASA, 28 November (IRIN) - The Supreme Court of the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday declared Joseph Kabila winner of a controversial presidential run-off election held on 29 October.

"The Supreme Court of Justice declares Joseph Kabila Kabange elected by an absolute majority," Benoit Lwamba Bindu, the court's first president, said in Kinshasa, the capital.

### **III Recommendations**

1. As a result of the Worldwide Mission Consultation, "Renewed Call to Presbyterian Mission in the World! Dialogue for Our Shared Future" that was held January 16-18, 2008, in Dallas, Texas, the Moderator, together with the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council, request that the General Assembly Council:
  - invite the sessions, middle governing bodies, seminaries, General Assembly Council ministries areas, and all PC(USA)-related mission organizations to affirm and adopt the following Invitation.

**Background:**

In response to the Commissioners' Resolution 08-17 ("*On the Moderator Convening a Meeting Regarding the Worldwide Mission work of the PC (USA)*"), the Moderator, together with the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council, convened a consultation at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas from 16-18 January. The Consultation brought together 64 mission leaders from the Outreach Foundation, the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, the Medical Benevolence Foundation, other Presbyterian-related mission organizations, global partners, and World Mission, Racial Ethnic, Women and Presbyterian Women, and Relief and Development staff to consider the common values which should characterize Presbyterian mission work around the world and to propose new ways to work together in ways that are more effective and faithful.

**An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission**

As members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) committed to God's mission, accompanied by global partners, we gathered together January 16-18, 2008 in Dallas, Texas. We acknowledge the rich Presbyterian heritage in world mission and reaffirm the Presbyterian understanding of God's mission as it is expressed in "Gathering for God's Future,"

*The Good News of Jesus Christ is to be shared with the whole world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, each of us in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sent into the world to join God's mission. As individuals and as a church, we are called to be faithful in this discipleship. Our mission is centered in the triune God. Our mission is God-called, Christ-centered and Spirit-led. Our mission is both proclamation and service; it is the reason the church exists...*

*Our renewed call from God is to face the challenges of witnessing and evangelizing worldwide, equipping the church for transforming mission, engaging in ministries of reconciliation, justice, healing and grace, and living the Good News of Jesus Christ in community with people who are poor, [persecuted, and living in the midst of violence]...*

*The church is part of God's plan. We are called into the community of the church, and we call new disciples into that community. With Christ as our head, the church community exists for the sake of God's mission. We learn to serve in mission in a way that is faithful to the triune God. We are to model the kind of community God intends for all humanity. To be the church is to be one large mission society.*

Grounded in this theological foundation we realize that God is calling us to new patterns of mission. The world has changed, and the majority of the world's Christians are now in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The great growth and mission faithfulness of the Church outside the West invite us into a new posture. We must listen and learn to receive. We must also be open to new patterns of collaboration. These new patterns involve new cooperation and partnerships within the PC(USA).

- I. We recognize that God calls us to mission that is grounded in confession of our sins, grows out of a life of prayer and is sustained in worship. Therefore, we covenant to live and serve together in God's 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 proclaim the fullness of Jesus Christ's good news; personal 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 to all in the one body of Christ 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)

<sup>1</sup> PCUSA, "Gathering for God's Future: Witness, Discipleship, Community: A Renewed Call to Worldwide Mission," 2003, pp. 1, 16. Text in brackets is added.

II. We seek to live out these mission values with humility, integrity and steadfastness. Recognizing that God invites us all to be full participants in God's mission, we commit ourselves to **work cooperatively** with one another in the following ways:

- 1 We will affirm and encourage World Mission as it continues to move from a regulatory role to a more enabling and equipping role.
- 2 We will celebrate and encourage diverse Presbyterian approaches and structures for mission while maintaining the unity of our participation in God's mission.
- 3 We will share responsibility for the education and preparation of all Presbyterians for mission.
- 4 We commit ourselves to seeking more mission personnel who will serve long-term in cross-cultural contexts through the PC(USA), and to supporting them fully.
- 5 We commit ourselves to enabling and supporting our global partners as they send their mission personnel in cross-cultural service.
- 6 We recognize and affirm the growing opportunity for cross-cultural mission in our own increasingly pluralistic and multi-cultural society, and we receive the global community from near and far as mission partners and God's gift to us. We seek increased integration between local and global mission.

III. As we move forward together in God's mission, we commit ourselves to calling the church to ongoing intercessory **prayer** for God's mission and to the following **tasks**:

- 1 We will form a Coordinating Committee to ensure that we will meet together to share and cooperate on a regular basis.
- 2 During the coming year we will work to address two immediate priorities:
  - a. to coordinate and collaborate in the sending of mission personnel.
  - b. to expand Presbyterian funding for mission personnel.
- 3 During the next three months we will share this document and invitation with our constituencies.

IV. With bold humility we **invite** those who would covenant with us to join in this new collaborative model of Presbyterian mission, and we ask for encouragement, for guidance and for prayer, remembering Jesus' own prayer:

*The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:22-23)*

We, the undersigned, as individuals, join in the covenant, and we will encourage the organizations we serve to affirm it as well. Signed this January 18, 2008.

### **Consultation Participants**

Carol Adcock Paul Freisen Lien Nguyen Anne Barstow Sue Fricks Setri Nyomi Marilyn Borst Sherron George KT Ockels Will Browne Joan Gray James Oudom Vernon Broyles Tim Hart-Andersen Greg Roth Barbara Campbell-Davis Jo Ella Holman Bill Simmons Nancy Cavalcante Rhashell Hunter Dale Stanton-Hoyle Tae Su Cheong Francie Irwin Ellie Stock Carol Clarke Cliff Kirkpatrick Scott Sunquist Patricia Cuyatti Karla Koll Tom Taylor John Daniel David Kpobi Rick Ufford-Chase Enos Das Pradhan Sara Lisherness Linda Valentine David Dawson Tricia Lloyd-Sidle Scott Weimer Don Dawson Victor Makari Rob Weingartner Enock De Assis Kathy Matsushima Doug Welch Lionel Derenoncourt Mike McCormick Huentelman Jim Wilson Paul Detterman Milton Mejia Bill Young Hunter Farrell Jim Milley Jake Young Ann Ferguson Dave Moore Maria Zack Judia Foreman Rachel Morris

### **These individuals came from a number of groups engaged in global mission including:**

Advisory Committee on the Constitution Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship Association of Presbyterian Mission Pastors Presbyterian Global Fellowship General Assembly Council (PCUSA) Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers Joining Hands Against Hunger Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Medical Benevolence Foundation Presbyterian Women Mission Networks Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers Program Mission Directors from Large Congregations Presbyterians for Renewal Mission Professors from PCUSA Seminaries Presbytery Partnerships New Wilmington Mission Conference Racial, Ethnic and Women's Ministries (PCUSA) Office of the General Assembly (PCUSA) Relief and Development (PCUSA) The Outreach Foundation Witherspoon Society Pastors from Large Congregations World Mission (PCUSA) Pastors from Immigrant Churches World Mission Initiative Peace and Justice (PCUSA)

### **Joined by Global Partners from:**

Colombia, Peru, Ghana, Vietnam, India.

Carol Adcock	Judith Foreman
Donna L.	Kathleen Matushina
Patricia Hayes	Esther Makari
Susan Dickey Fricks	William C. Pearce
	Paul Wettenham

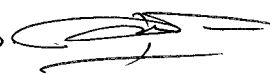
W. R. Ransom	David W. Moore
Paul MILTON MEDIA	Janice
F. Cuyatti	Debbie
	Ann Ferguson

John W. Daniel	Anna P. Lidenwood	Marilyn Bost
James W. Willey	Terri Lloyd-Sidle	Paula Frazier
Joan S. Gray	David G. Dawson	Theresa
B. Anita Farrell		

Lee Young	Rachael	Ernie
Bob Senior	Thom F. Tabor	Michelle

Linda B. Valentine  
Timothy Hart-Anderson  
Don Welch  
Jo Ellen Holman  
Barbara Constance Davis  
Carol J. Clarke  
Greg Koths  
Marie Bach  
Sharon K. George  
W. W. Wainwright

Sh

Anne Barstow  
Ashell D. Hunter  
Kara Ann Kell  
Bill Young  
Scott D. Soyent  
  
Edward D. Swine  
D. Scott Wimer  
Nancy H. Casalcanto  
Rick Yffel-Choe  
  
Kathleen C. Odel  
Donald J. Dawson  
Elinor Jean H. Stock  
James B. 

## **Report #A103 Institutional Standards for Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering**

### **Background:**

The 2006 Referral Item: Item 12-13. Report: Racial Ethnic Education Support Work Group asked that a special group be formed to develop educational guidelines and standards and a method of applying them in order to ensure that the Christmas Joy Offering supports institutions that can most effectively serve populations for whom access to educational opportunities would be difficult and that the educational guidelines, standards, and the method for applying them should be completed, enacted, and reported to the 218th General Assembly (2008); that until guidelines and standards are established, the Christmas Joy Offering continue to be used exclusively for the HPREI's with whom the GAC has traditionally covenanted; and that the GAC consider establishing a special fund and case statement to help meet the unique needs of the HPREI's.

### **Institutional Standards for Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering**

The Presbyterian Church (USA) and its predecessors have a long history of support for minority education. That support continues through the distribution of funds collected annually through the Christmas Joy Offering, one-half of which is designated for support of Historic Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Institutions (HPREI)<sup>3</sup>. In order to be a good steward of these funds and accountable to those who contribute to the offering, the church establishes the following formula for the dissemination monies from the Christmas Joy Offering designated for racial ethnic education.

#### **I. BASE GRANTS**

One half of the funds distributed shall be earmarked for Base Grants to institutions that meet the following criteria:

- a. **Mission.** An institution must show evidence of commitment to the stated mission of its governing board and to the mission goals of the General Assembly Council (GAC) of the PC (USA). Those goals include:
  1. Leadership and Vocation
  2. Spirituality and Discipleship
  3. Justice and Compassion
  4. Evangelism and Witness

The evidence must demonstrate that an institution's mission is understood and supported by all of its constituent groups and must include a covenant between the institution and one or more church governing bodies and published statements in the institution's catalogue, promotional materials and other public documents.

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<sup>3</sup> These institutions include Barber Scotia College, Cook School for Christian Leadership, Johnson C. Smith University, Knoxville College, Sheldon Jackson College, Stillman College, Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School.

- b. Audit.** By November 1 each year, an institution must provide to the church an independent audit by a Certified Public Accountant of the institution's financial condition during the previous fiscal year.
- c. Strategic Plan.** An institution must provide a current three- to five-year strategic plan for the institution's continued operation.
- d. Accreditation.**
  - 1. Degree granting institutions must be accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting association. Institutions that are not accredited will have a three-year period in which to achieve accreditation.
  - 2. Non-degree granting institutions must have an alternative educational model that is consistent with their mission to educate racial ethnic students and has been approved by the General Assembly Council in lieu of accreditation.
  - 3. Institutions must demonstrate how they provide financial support for students.
- e. Racial Ethnic Student Enrollment.** Enrollment of racial ethnic students must be demonstrated by an institution's mission and substantiated by the demographics of its student body.

## **II. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Of funds not earmarked for Base Grants:

### **A. Mission Validity**

Twenty percent (20%) will be available to institutions that demonstrate mission validity by meeting the following criteria. For each criteria that is met, an institution will receive one-sixth (1/6) of the total amount for which it is eligible based on mission validity.

#### **1. Evidence of Racial Ethnic Mission**

- a. An institution must demonstrate a racial ethnic composition within its student enrollment of at least fifty percent (50%).
- b. An institution must demonstrate that at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its students are financial disadvantaged and eligible for need-based aid.

#### **2. Evidence of Successful Educational Program**

- a. An institution must show evidence of having a qualified faculty to serve the enrolled student body.

- b. An institution must demonstrate a retention rate of at least seventy percent (70%) of its students from the first to the second year for colleges or from year to year for secondary schools.

**3. Evidence of Achievement**

- a. An institution must demonstrate a six-year persistence to graduation rate of at least forty percent (40%).
- b. An institution must have in place a systematic outcomes assessment program.

**B. Institutional Viability.**

Twenty percent (20%) will be available to institutions that demonstrate institutional viability by meeting the following criteria. Accreditation without sanction by the appropriate regional accrediting association is a prerequisite to receiving Institutional Viability funds. For each of the other criteria met, an institution shall receive one-seventh (1/7) of the amount for which it is eligible.

**1. Evidence of Financial Integrity**

- a. An institution must show evidence of a balanced budget within constraints approved by its governing board.
- b. An institution must be able to produce an unqualified independent audit of financial operations for the previous fiscal year.

**2. Evidence of Long-Range Strength**

- a. An institution must show evidence of a systematic plan for raising funds to support the institution beyond what is received through tuition and financial aid.
- b. An institution must show a debt-to-net-worth ratio within the recommended limits of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

**3. Strength of Governing Board**

- a. An institution's governing board must broadly represent constituencies served by the institution and the public.
- b. An institution's governing board must demonstrate through financial support an active participation in the work of the board.
- c. An institution's governing board must demonstrate its responsibility for policy determination, oversight of the institution and respect for the boundaries of its responsibility.

**C. Contingency Funds**

Ten percent (10%) will be available for institutions faced with emergency costs that have no other means of covering those costs.

**D. SITE VISITS**

In order to ensure compliance with these standards, educational institutions that receive money from the Christmas Joy Offering will be reviewed every four years by a team that includes:

5. The president of a comparable institution
6. A person knowledgeable about the higher education evaluation process
7. A member of the General Assembly Council
8. The GAC Associate for Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges (ex officio)

**Report # A110 Follow-up from the January 2008 Dallas Consultation on Worldwide Mission**

**Recommendation:**

**The Moderator, together with the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council, request that the General Assembly Council:**

- **affirm and adopt the Invitation to a more collaborative model of Presbyterian mission as on the following pages.**

**Background:**

In response to the Commissioners' Resolution 08-17 ("*On the Moderator Convening a Meeting Regarding the Worldwide Mission work of the PC (USA)*"), the Moderator, together with the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council, convened a consultation at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas from 16-18 January. The Consultation brought together 64 mission leaders from the Outreach Foundation, the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, the Medical Benevolence Foundation, other Presbyterian-related mission organizations, global partners, and World Mission, Racial Ethnic, Women and Presbyterian Women, and Relief and Development staff to consider the common values which should characterize Presbyterian mission work around the world and to propose new ways to work together in ways that are more effective and faithful.

## **An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission**

As members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) committed to God's mission, accompanied by global partners, we gathered together January 16-18, 2008 in Dallas, Texas. We acknowledge the rich Presbyterian heritage in world mission and reaffirm the Presbyterian understanding of God's mission as it is expressed in "Gathering for God's Future,"

*The Good News of Jesus Christ is to be shared with the whole world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, each of us in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sent into the world to join God's mission. As individuals and as a church, we are called to be faithful in this discipleship. Our mission is centered in the triune God. Our mission is God-called, Christ-centered and Spirit-led. Our mission is both proclamation and service; it is the reason the church exists...*

*Our renewed call from God is to face the challenges of witnessing and evangelizing worldwide, equipping the church for transforming mission, engaging in ministries of reconciliation, justice, healing and grace, and living the Good News of Jesus Christ in community with people who are poor, [persecuted, and living in the midst of violence]...*

*The church is part of God's plan. We are called into the community of the church, and we call new disciples into that community. With Christ as our head, the church community exists for the sake of God's mission. We learn to serve in mission in a way that is faithful to the triune God. We are to model the kind of community God intends for all humanity. To be the church is to be one large mission society.*

Grounded in this theological foundation we realize that God is calling us to new patterns of mission. The world has changed, and the majority of the world's Christians are now in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The great growth and mission faithfulness of the Church outside the West invite us into a new posture. We must listen and learn to receive. We must also be open to new patterns of collaboration. These new patterns involve new cooperation and partnerships within the PC(USA).

- I. We recognize that God calls us to mission that is grounded in confession of our sins, grows out of a life of prayer and is sustained in worship. Therefore, we covenant to live and serve together in God's 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 proclaim the fullness of Jesus Christ's good news; personal 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 to all in the one body of Christ 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)

PCUSA, "Gathering for God's Future: Witness, Discipleship, Community: A Renewed Call to Worldwide Mission," 2003, pp. 1, 16. Text in brackets is added.

- II. We seek to live out these mission values with humility, integrity and steadfastness. Recognizing that God invites us all to be full participants in God's mission, we commit ourselves to **work cooperatively** with one another in the following ways:
1. We will affirm and encourage World Mission as it continues to move from a regulatory role to a more enabling and equipping role.
  2. We will celebrate and encourage diverse Presbyterian approaches and structures for mission while maintaining the unity of our participation in God's mission.
  3. We will share responsibility for the education and preparation of all Presbyterians for mission.
  4. We commit ourselves to seeking more mission personnel who will serve long-term in cross-cultural contexts through the PC(USA), and to supporting them fully.
  5. We commit ourselves to enabling and supporting our global partners as they send their mission personnel in cross-cultural service.
  6. We recognize and affirm the growing opportunity for cross-cultural mission in our own increasingly pluralistic and multi-cultural society, and we receive the global community from near and far as mission partners and God's gift to us. We seek increased integration between local and global mission.

III. As we move forward together in God's mission, we commit ourselves to calling the church to ongoing intercessory **prayer** for God's mission and to the following **tasks**:

1. We will form a Coordinating Committee to ensure that we will meet together to share and cooperate on a regular basis.
2. During the coming year we will work to address two immediate priorities:
  - a. to coordinate and collaborate in the sending of mission personnel.
  - b. to expand Presbyterian funding for mission personnel.
3. During the next three months we will share this document and invitation with our constituencies.

IV. With bold humility we **invite** those who would covenant with us to join in this new collaborative model of Presbyterian mission, and we ask for encouragement, for guidance and for prayer, remembering Jesus' own prayer:

*The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:22-23)*

We, the undersigned, as individuals, join in the covenant, and we will encourage the organizations we serve to affirm it as well. Signed this January 18, 2008.

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Pellegrino Hayes	Esther E. Makari
Susan Stacy Fricks	William C. Frazier
	Carol A. DeHaven

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Lee Young	Rachelle	Ernie
Bob Senior	Thom F. Tabor	Michelle

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Nancy H. Cavalcante  
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Elinor Jane H. Hoch  
James B.

**CONSULTATION ON WORLDWIDE MISSION  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church  
Dallas, Texas, 16-18 January 2008

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Non-Staff Participants**

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Moderator Joan Gray

***Facilitator:***

Maria Zack

***Mission Networks:***

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Sue Fricks

Kathy Matsushima

***Validated Mission Support Groups:***

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Dale Stanton-Hoyle

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***GAC:***

Carol Adcock

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***Mission Professors:***

Scott Sunquist

***Presbytery Partnerships:***

Barbara Campbell-Davis

Dave Dawson

Dave Moore

***Mission Pastors:***

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***Presbyterian Global Fellowship:***

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***Witherspoon Society:***

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**Report A.001**  
**Evangelism And Witness Goal Area Committee**  
**General Assembly Council**  
**February 13-15, 2008**

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