

Highlights from the October 19-20, 2017 meeting of ACREC:

- Discussed highlights from the September Presbyterian Mission Agency Board meeting, including the approved report of the Governance Task Force, which grants the advocacy and advisory committees a seat with full voice and vote on the new 20-member board. ACREC also reviewed the work done by the Board surrounding the need for more extensive translation work in the denomination. A team was created by the Board to review the needs and to report back to the Board in 2018. This is an issue at the forefront for ACREC, and the committee continues to discuss effective ways to hold the denomination accountable to being accessible and hospitable to all members.
- Heard an update from Holly Haile Thompson and Buddy Monahan on the important work of the Doctrine of Discovery team. ACREC is looking forward to supporting what this group brings to the 223rd General Assembly (2018).
- Reviewed what still needs to be done regarding 222nd GA (2016) referral Item 11-24, recommendation 2, on determining more appropriate terminology than “racial ethnic.” A conference call with staff from Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries is currently being scheduled for this discussion. ACREC will bring a response to the 223rd GA (2018).
- Had lunch and discussion with two associate pastors at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago: Vicky Curtiss and Nanette Sawyer, who jointly staff their church’s Racial Equity Committee.
- Reports were brought from each of the caucuses/councils/coordinating committees of the denomination, as well as the many liaison members of ACREC (ACWC, ACSWP, MRTI, PMAB).
- ACREC had a Go-To-Meeting conversation with Samuel Son, Manager for Diversity and Reconciliation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency about Race Audits.
- ACREC had a Go-To-Meeting conversation with Tom Hay, Associate Stated Clerk and Director of Assembly Operations in the Office of the General Assembly about the implications of holding the PCUSA General Assembly in St. Louis, a city fraught with racial tensions and issues.
- General Assembly Nominating Committee liaison to ACREC, Lindsey Anderson, and Valerie Small, Assistant Stated Clerk and Manager of GA Nominations, met with ACREC to discuss the need for ACREC’s participation in recruitment to ACREC. They also provided an information on nominations generally and answered many questions for the committee.
- ACREC began thinking more seriously about the 223rd General Assembly (2018) and what issues they might choose to raise before the Assembly via resolutions.