

Volume 24 • Issue 1 • Summer 2014

The Racial Ethnic TORCH



Abound in Hope
Romans 15:13

GROW | TRANSFORM | EMPOWER | LEAD | DEVELOP



The Racial Ethnic TORCH

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A message from the director, **Rhashell D. Hunter**

Presbyterians have been involved in movements that have changed history and improved people's lives.

Last summer, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice. We remembered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s magnificent "I Have a Dream" speech, and words of a notable Presbyterian who also spoke at the Lincoln Memorial on Wednesday, August 28, 1963—Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, the stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA).

As the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convenes in Detroit on Saturday, June 14, and concludes on Saturday, June 21, 2014, we will be reminded that Presbyterians have a tradition of being engaged in the church and the world, serving communities, speaking up for justice, and seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

At the General Assembly (GA), there will be business related to racial ethnic and new immigrant church growth, and reports from the Women of Color 2013 Consultation Committee, the Special Offerings Task Force, and the Mid Council Consultation. One of the first events to welcome the newly elected Moderator of the 221st G.A., the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries Reception, will be held on Saturday, June 14, following the election. One of the most popular breakfasts at the General Assembly—the Women of Faith Awards Breakfast—will be held on Sunday, June 15. There also will be many racial ethnic and multicultural lunches and dinners, and staff will resource several GA committees.

As we gather together for the 221st General Assembly, we pray that we may journey on God's side through our involvement in movements through which we hope to change history and improve the lives of people throughout the world.



On the cover: Images from the 220th General Assembly (2012) in Pittsburgh.

Save the Date

June 30 – July 4, 2014. Hispanic Pastoral Development Seminar, San Juan, PR

The event will include a visit to the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. The Rev. Dr. Agustina Luvis, associate professor at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, is the keynote speaker.

July 30–August 3, 2014, National Multicultural Church Conference, Fort Worth, TX. “Journeying and Awakening into God’s Diverse World”

Join us as we celebrate our cultural diversity and our unity in Christ Jesus. For information, go to pcusa.org/ministries/multicultural/nmcc-2014/.

August 7-10, 2014, 2014 Women’s Connection at Montreat Conference Center

For more information about the event, go to montreat.org/current/2014-womens-connection. For more information about scholarships, contact Jewel McRae at jewel.mcrae@pcusa.org. Download the scholarship application at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/youngwomen>.

October 13–16, 2014, “More than None: Engaging the Religiously Unaffiliated” at Montreat Conference Center

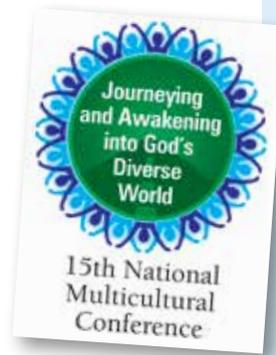
This conference will explore how to engage in ministry with the “nones,” those who identify as religiously unaffiliated. For more information, contact Merri Alexander at merria@montreat.org or call 828-419-9807.

October 24–27, 2014, Racial Ethnic Seminarians’ Conference, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Islands, GA

Sponsored by the Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries. For more information, contact Jewel McRae at jewel.mcrae@pcusa.org or Vince Patton at vince.patton@pcusa.org.

November 4–20, 2014, Presbyterian Women Global Exchange to the Caribbean

A delegation of Presbyterian women from across the US will explore the needs of women and children in the Caribbean. The Global Exchange will continue when Caribbean women from partner organizations and mission sites are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering. For more information, contact Kathy Reeves at katharine.reeves@pcusa.org.



Fast Facts

Did You Know?

Racial Ethnic & Cross Cultural Ministries

(formerly the Racial Ethnic Unit) was established in 1987 in the reunited Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It was designed to develop and implement ministries and programs related to the issues of race in church and society.

Our constituents in new immigrant and emerging ministries

represent 22 nationalities speaking 18 different languages and dialects.

The mandate of Racial Ethnic & Cross Cultural Ministries

is “to do justice . . . love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). The mandate had two interrelated focal points: **doing justice** and **strengthening congregations**.

On the front cover of each *Racial Ethnic Torch*, you will see our mantra: *Grow, Transform, Empower, Lead, and Develop*. The core ministry and the purpose for our work in the Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural Ministries offices are:

Church Growth, with a focus on new worshiping communities

1. **Transformation** of existing congregations
2. **Social Justice and Empowerment**
3. **Leadership Development**, with a focus on developing racial ethnic, women, and young adult transformational leaders, and
4. **Cross Cultural Ministries**

Thus, our mantra is *Grow, Transform, Lead, and Develop*. The Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural Ministries offices *inspire, equip, and connect* racial ethnic and new immigrant worshiping communities and develop and empower racial ethnic and new immigrant leaders. The ministry area does this through training, coaching, resource development, leadership development institutes, networking, and providing grants to congregations, racial ethnic schools and colleges, and racial ethnic and immigrant members and leaders.

In Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women, we engage the church in its mission to become more diverse and inclusive of racial, ethnic, cultural, and language groups, and we equip women for leadership in all ministries of the church.

Paying Attention to the Needs around Us

Racial ethnic, multicultural, and new immigrant church growth consultation

By Jessica Denson

Supporting racial ethnic, multicultural, and new immigrant church growth doesn't come down to one or two groups—but it's a charge for the whole church.

"What's needed to open the church to everyone is to get to a different sort of critical mass—where the racial ethnic groups come together and have more leverage moving toward the same goal," David W. McKee, executive and stated clerk, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, said after attending the Racial Ethnic, Multicultural, and New Immigrant Church Growth Consultation. "It's time for the dominant (majority white) group to let this change happen, to let all people take part and have a voice. We need a genuine opening up to all groups."

Those attending the consultation came up with some immediate strategies to connect with and grow racial ethnic, multicultural, and new immigrant church groups.

"This consultation sought to change a historical dynamic in the church by intentionally involving leaders from every level of the PC(USA)," Rev. Sterling Morse, coordinator for Cross Cultural Ministries and Congregational Support and lead staff to the Racial Ethnic, Multicultural, and New Immigrant Consultation, told us. "The hope is the understanding that growing the church is not relegated to merely specific areas or groups but for all of us."

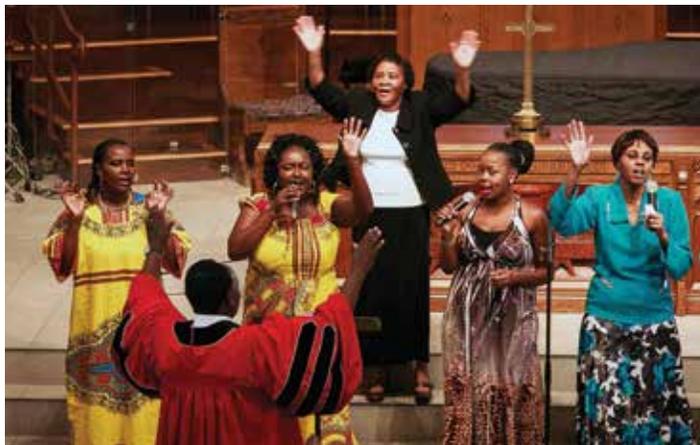
Responding to the directive from the 220th General Assembly (2012) to develop strategies and policies to foster racial ethnic, multicultural, and new immigrant church growth within the PC(USA), Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries staff hosted a consultation in the summer of 2013 to address what can be done.

"There was an intentional collaboration between representatives of the GA offices, the mid council executives who participated, and congregational leadership, especially young adults who provided great leadership and voice," said Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW. "We were looking for practical strategies that will lead to ministries of impact in our church."

"I was impressed by the group that gathered and the enthusiasm I heard from them after they had been meeting for a full day. We started the day asking, 'What will be different this time?'" said Linda Valentine, executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The group of about three dozen people worked over two days identifying both the bright spots within racial ethnic, multicultural, and new immigrant ministries as well as the challenges still to be met.

The obstacles include the dismissal of leadership credentials of new immigrant pastors ordained in Presbyterian Church denominations outside the US, the need for support and training and local and regional



Church of Amazing Grace, a new immigrant worshipping community in Santa Ana, CA

human resources in areas where mid councils have experienced staff reduction.

"What did stand out was the shared thought that training received by Presbyterians in Presbyterian-related seminaries seems unaligned with present-day pastoral and congregational needs," Rev. Morse said.

Those needs include working with seminaries to develop culturally sensitive processes for curriculum, theologies, language, and teaching and learning styles for both clergy and lay leaders of all ethnicities. Attendees also identified a need to transform the culture of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from regulatory to relational.

For Rev. Morse, the discussion and worship taking place at the consultation itself were signs of momentum.

"The diverse group gelled quickly, spoke frankly in dealing with difficult subjects, and reached common ground in decision making in a way that seldom happens, at least in my experience," he said. "I contend the consultation, the collaboration on faith and mission issues with others, across race, culture, and class, allowed for the sense of healing all."

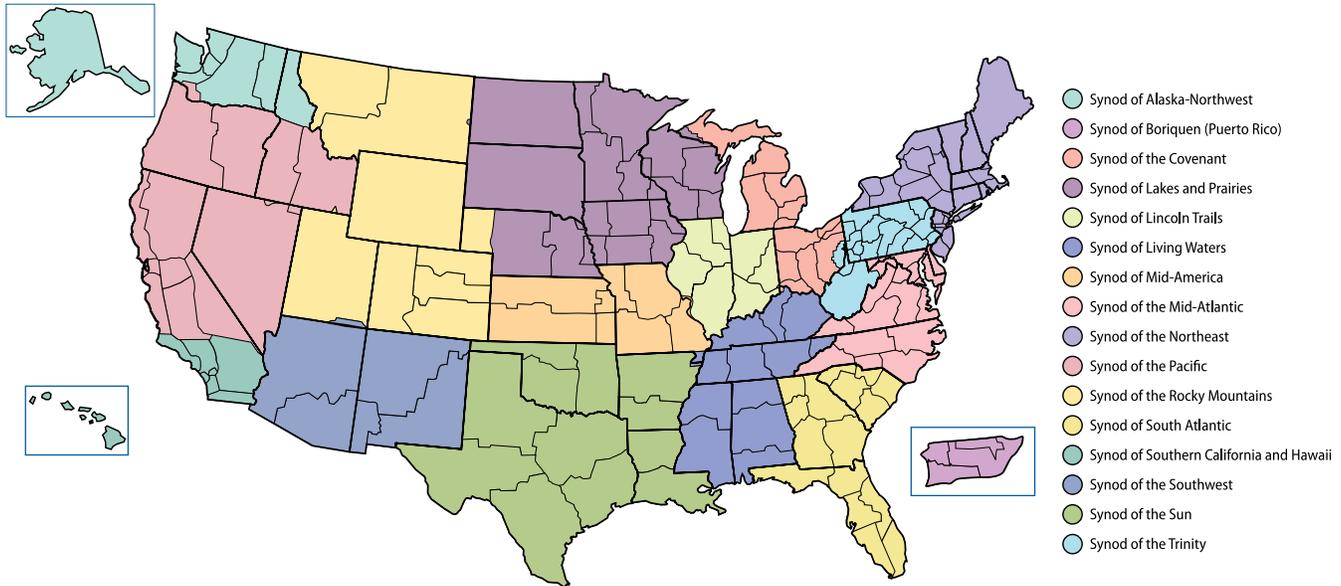
National Racial Ethnic Ministries Task Force Report

The Moderator of the 220th General Assembly (2012) appointed the National Racial Ethnic Ministries Task Force exclusively to review, assess, and explore the call to, responsibility in, and vision for racial ethnic ministry within the PC(USA), reporting its findings to the 221st General Assembly (2014). The Task Force submitted its report, which is located at tinyurl.com/q4wefyw.

Mid Councils Commission Report

“Emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call”

Reprinted with Permission from the Presbyterian News Service, Jerry L. Van Marter



Determined that their report be viewed as a newer, more collaborative way of being the church and not as a synod downsizing proposal, members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Mid Councils Commission (MCC) spent their last meeting together tweaking their recommendations and refining the rationale for them.

The substance of the recommendations remains—to reduce the number of PC(USA) synods from the current 16 to eight by 2016—but the revised language approved by the MCC at its Jan. 13–15 meeting reflects a vision of “eight larger regional synods, each with an emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call.”

“It isn’t enough to simply reduce the number of synods,” said MCC member Jim Wilson of Scioto Valley Presbytery, “but to streamline the mid council system. “We’re not just talking about cutting costs but of finding a way the church can be more fully expressive of its mission and ecclesiology.”

Added the Rev. Landon Whitsitt, executive for the Synod of Mid-America: “We’re talking about reimagining the church and how it engages in mission—to create structures that enable us to be more missional at all levels of the church.”

Borrowing from presentations that MCC member Liza Hendricks, who recently retired as executive of the Presbytery of Western Reserve, has made on behalf of the commission, the MCC approved a new introduction to its report “inviting” the 221st General Assembly in Detroit to envision:

- A church whose existing mid councils come together at a bigger table or multiple tables to aspire to what God is calling them to do to aspire to what God is calling us to be.

- A church with mid councils that engage in conversations about collaborating, partnering and networking, as they define their purpose and the best way to live out a new identity.
- A church whose mid councils may focus on relationships or mission, leadership development, administrative support or essential ecclesiastical functions as the glue that helps presbyteries be in covenantal community with one another.
- A church whose mid councils are prepared to engage in significant structural change for the sake of enabling adaptive and creative change within broader borders.

Collaboration between synods and their presbyteries for the sake of healthy congregations is key to the success of the restructuring proposal, MCC members agreed. The revised recommendations explicitly call for “a collaborative process between the synods and presbyteries” and informs them that “designated members of MCC2 will be available for conversation, clarification and collaboration during the synods’ and presbyteries’ two-year process of reconfiguring synods.”

Time is of the essence, the MCC agreed. Its recommendations call for the reconfigured synod boundaries to be in place by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and for that Assembly to create another administrative commission “to assist synods and presbyteries who have been engaged in a substantive plan for reconfiguration but have been unable to resolve particular issues in their process.” That commission would propose final boundaries to the 2018 Assembly.

The MCC report, Jane D. Smith of Riverside Presbytery said, “expresses our desire to move from simple downsizing to a new way of thinking and doing ministry.”

Proposed Changes to Special Offerings

Adapted from an article by Bethany Daily of the Presbyterian News Service

The Special Offerings Advisory Task Force is recommending that the current Peacemaking Offering be converted to a Peace and Global Witness Offering to be collected on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5 of this year.

The task force submitted its report to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, meeting Feb. 5–7. The report was approved by the board and will go to the 221st General Assembly (2014), held June 14–21 in Detroit.

Restructuring the offering will allow for greater collaboration between justice and evangelism ministries while empowering congregations and mid councils to work locally, according to the recommendation.

“This recommendation, driven by collaboration across the task force, the church, and program staff responds to a demand within the church for an offering allowing local congregations to expand their global witness while maintaining our longstanding commitment of working towards peace and reconciliation,” said the Rev. Sarah Sarchet Butter, chairwoman of the task force, in a press release.

The task force recommends that the Peace and Global Witness Offering be distributed as follows: 50 percent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, 25 percent to presbyteries and 25 percent to congregations. The Peacemaking Offering is distributed in the same way.

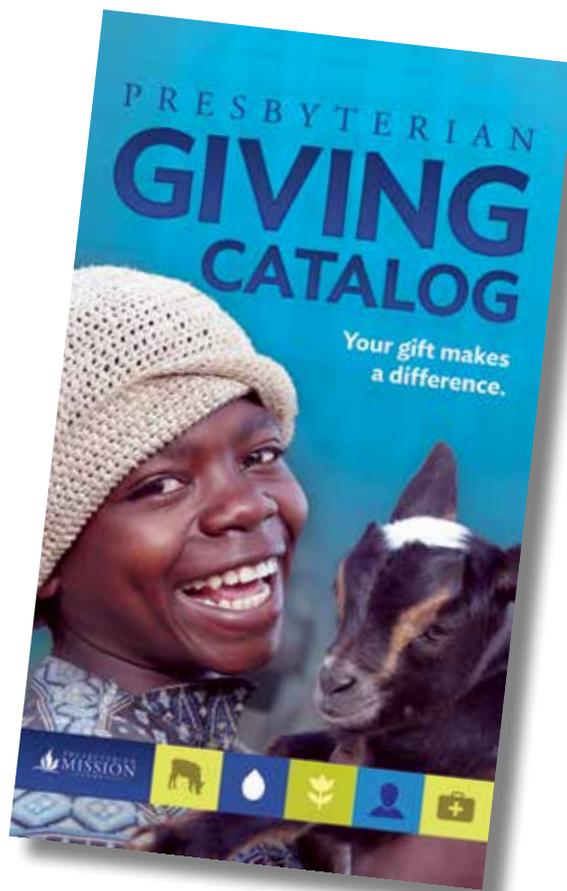
Congregations that have consistently given to the Peacemaking Offering in the past will continue to support current peacemaking initiatives through 2016. Gifts from new participants would immediately fund collaborative efforts in peace and global witness, according to the press release.

“Inspired by conversations with leadership and staff in both the Peacemaking Program and World Mission ministry area, we believe an offering focused on collaborative efforts of peacemaking and global witness, especially in reconciliation in cultures of violence, more accurately reflects the needs of the denomination—and the world—at this time,” the task force’s report states.

Although the Peacemaking Offering has a loyal support network, participation in the offering has remained stagnant during the past two decades, with about 20 percent of Presbyterian congregations donating about \$2 million a year. The task force believes that restructuring the offering could double the total proceeds of the offering within five years, with the greater missional impact and renewed interest in the offering inspiring new congregations to participate, according to the report.

The task force brought other recommendations to the Mission Agency board:

- The development of an ambassador program to recruit, train and



Front page of the Special Offerings Giving Catalog from 2013.

- support at least one Special Offerings advocate in each presbytery
- The creation of a similar program for seminarians, combined with tuition/debt assistance and/or mission experiences
- The establishment of a task force to advise the Mission Agency on the allocation of racial-ethnic leadership funds from the Christmas Joy Offering
- That the Presbyterian Mission Agency continue its relationship with already recognized and qualified historically racial ethnic Presbyterian schools and colleges and distribute funds at no more than current levels, and
- Allocate funds formerly committed to now ineligible institutions to other Presbyterian Mission Agency racial ethnic leadership development opportunities
- Encouraging every congregation to increase its participation in Special Offerings by receiving one additional offering and increasing giving by 10 percent each year.

Education and Missional Living Proposals

Mission Agency sends proposals to General Assembly

Reprinted with permission from the Presbyterian News Service, Bethany Daily

The Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board is recommending that the 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approve two church-wide initiatives focusing on education and missional living.

The two proposals, “Educate a Child, Transform the World” and “Living Missionally,” would allow the mission agency to serve as a catalyst for church-wide movements that could take many different forms.

.....

“...improve the quality of education for 1,000,000 children in the U.S. and globally over the next 4 years.”

.....

“A vision has got to be something that everyone can find their place within,” said the Rev. Roger Dermody, the mission agency’s deputy executive director for mission. “We’re not defining that place.”

The Educate a Child initiative focuses on lack of good educational opportunities as a root cause of poverty and aims to celebrate the PC(USA)’s rich history of providing and supporting education. The church-wide initiative aims to support and connect congregations and mid councils to “improve the quality of education for 1,000,000 children in the US and globally over the next 4 years.”

The initiative would also support global and domestic leaders who have made a commitment to education and to recognize this as a calling.

“Lift up this notion of being involved in education as a very important thing,” Dermody said.

The mission agency would also develop tangible ways to measure the impact of this initiative, reporting its findings back to the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

At-large committee member Heath Rada asked about religious education and public versus private schooling, and committee member Joyce Smith asked where these education programs might be held.

“We have some ideas, but we don’t have solidified plans,” Dermody said, adding that the mission agency doesn’t want to exclude any options and that it is inviting the church to really engage in this initiative, meaning that plans might look different in different contexts.

The Living Missionally proposal is a “church-wide initiative that will

inspire, equip and connect Presbyterians to continue to go beyond the walls of their congregations and increase their engagement in service to their communities and the world.”

“The church ought to exist to serve the community around it,” Dermody said, adding that communities don’t exist to simply fill church pews. “You want to be the kind of church that if it shuts down, people weep because they’ve seen its impact in the community.”

Committee member Steve Aeschbacher asked about the proposal’s goal of addressing “root causes of societal injustices” versus other parts of God’s mission, such as evangelism.

The proposal aims to lessen the “either/or” mentality and recognize that “discipleship is ‘both/and,’” Dermody said, adding that we must both speak and live the Gospel to be disciples of Jesus.

The focus on social justice issues comes from the desire to be in the community and move beyond the church walls, said Rob Fohr, young adult catalyst for the mission agency. Many of the community service opportunities the church might engage in, such as homelessness, poverty or education reform, would fall under the category of social justice.



Youth complete a crafts and education project during the 220th General Assembly.

End Violence Against Women and Children

Presbyterians join movement

Reprinted with permission from Presbyterian News Service



Presbyterian Mission Agency staff wore orange to support the cause. Photo by: Melody Smith

Stand up. Speak up. Be counted among those Presbyterians who are engaged more deeply in God's work of reconciliation—taking part in World Mission's call to end violence against women and children in communities around the world, including our own.

In February, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board unanimously voted to become a member of the *We Will Speak Out Campaign*, a faith-based effort to end violence against women.

Collaborating with empowered and committed people of faith across the denomination and the US is especially important to do the work Jesus calls us into. We can share in more faithful and effective mission—and have greater impact when we work together. *We Will Speak Out* is becoming a hub for people of faith to effect changes from the ground up. The PC(USA) is proud of being able to help build this movement. Presbyterians will also be connecting to the work of our global partners and mission co-workers already involved in their own contexts.

One in three women is abused in her lifetime. Eighty percent of those trafficked around the world are women and children. We know that violence against women and children touches all communities and cultures. And we know that both men and women care about honoring the image of God in God's dearly loved people.

Shannon Beck, reconciliation catalyst for the PC(USA), says, "We are particularly tuned to building a movement that listens to and is informed by the needs of women of many cultures. The perspective and passions of those whose voices are silenced or unnoticed have so much to teach us about how to do this work . . . immigrant communities, those of our sisters and brothers living in the 'diaspora' of the United States, who live with cultural violence every day. We don't like to admit it, but how we do this work is as important as what we do."

Join us as we focus on ending violence in the home and in addressing human trafficking in the US and around the world. Here's how you can take part directly in our campaign to end violence against women and children:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency will be advocating for an end of violence against women and children on the 25th of every month through observing UNITE's Orange Days. Wear orange as a symbol of our solidarity and commitment and choose two or three simple actions:

- Post a photo of yourself on Facebook and Twitter with a sign that says "Another Presbyterian ending violence against women and children" or "I will help end violence against women because (filling in your particular reason)." #endviolence #pcusa@pcusamission
- Sign the *We Will Speak Out* pledge as an individual and encourage your session to do so as well by going to the web site at wewillspeakout.us
- Use your outside voice! Join the PC(USA)'s campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children as we partner with other organizations, mission co-workers, and global partners. Contact Shannon.Beck@pcusa.org with the subject line: I'M IN! to learn more.

We invite you and your worshiping community, presbytery, and synod to engage more deeply in God's work of reconciliation—the heart of the gospel message. Together, we follow Jesus into the broken places of our world and strengthen our ministries of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Women of Faith Award Recipients

Three remarkable women to be honored for their prophetic witness

By Jomaris DeJesús

Three prophetic women have been named recipients of the 2014 Women of Faith Award by the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) during its board meeting in Louisville. The three women will be honored at the Women of Faith Breakfast on Sunday, June 15, during the 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Detroit. The theme for this year's awards is "Prophetic Women of Faith."

Recipients of the award were announced at the Mission Agency board meeting following recommendations from the Women of Faith committee. Nominations are received from throughout the church, and honorees were selected by a committee of representatives from groups related to the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Women of Faith Award was established in 1986 to honor female members of the PC(USA) whose lives exemplify their Christian commitment through witness, service, and leadership. The three deserving 2014 Women of Faith awardees are:

Elder Joanie Lukins—*Danville, KY*, in the Presbytery of Transylvania and the Synod of the Living Waters. Joanie Lukins has served Living Waters for the World in almost every capacity of the organization. She is a lead instructor for the training school, Clean Water U, and she created the Health, Hygiene, and Spiritual teachings curriculum used in one of the workshops. She has served as the moderator of the Living Waters for the World Committee and is now serving as a board member. She is moderator of the Yucatan Network Coordinating Team and helps oversee the water systems in that area of the world. In addition to all of this, Joanie leads the water team at her church and takes presbytery-wide teams to the Yucatan to work on water partnerships there.

Elder Helen Morrison—*Grosse Ile, MI*, in the Presbytery of Detroit and the Synod of the Covenant. Helen Morrison has contributed to the Presbyterian Church's ministries on aging almost since their beginnings. She has served as a ruling elder for multiple terms and as a presbytery vice moderator, moderator, and staff person and as a two-term member of the General Assembly Council (now the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board). In addition, she chaired one of the General Assembly Council divisions and served on several of its committees and task forces. Helen also has served as a member of numerous boards and agencies, including the Presbyterian Association of Homes and Services to the Aging, and as a delegate to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

Reverend Joyce Shin—*Chicago, IL*, in the Presbytery of Chicago and the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Joyce Shin is the associate pastor for congregational life at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, a



Elder Helen Morrison



Elder Joanie Lukins



Reverend Joyce Shin

congregation with a long history of prophetic ministry, where she serves as the staff liaison to the Congregational Life Committee of the session. Under her leadership, the Interfaith Resource Committee at Fourth Presbyterian developed a close relationship with the local Muslim community, including the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, and maintained a strong relationship with the Chicago Sinai Congregation. She is an elected member of the Presbytery of Chicago's Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group, which cares for the presbytery's relationships with other Christian denominations, with other spiritual and religious communities, and with ecumenical and interreligious organizations and bodies.

People don't always hear about prophetic women of faith; however, there are women who are part of the prophetic tradition in the church who are following the examples of prophets and apostles who came before them. Acts 2:17-18 reads: "Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."

The 2014 Women of Faith award recipients have impacted the church through their mission and ministry to congregations and the world.

Women of Color Consultation Recommendations

By Jomaris DeJesús

More than 40 women from across the United States, of a wide range of ages, races, ethnicities, and ministries, gathered in Louisville last fall to participate in the Women of Color Consultation, “Measure for Measure: Assessing the Impact of Hearing and Singing New Songs to God.” Held in response to the 220th General Assembly (2012), the consultation was interracial as well as intergenerational. As the report from the consultation reads, “Young adult women expressed appreciation for hearing the wisdom and experience of older participants, while women of advanced ages treasured the perspectives and commitment of younger women to the church.” The consultation held by Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries resulted in recommendations to the 221st General Assembly (2014) that could help further the work of equipping the church at all levels to fulfill its gospel witness of equity and inclusion.

Among other things, the report recommends that synods hold presbyteries within their bounds accountable for providing training and education on cultural competency, antiracism, and anti-sexism to its Committees on Ministry and Committees on Preparation for Ministry at least once every three years beginning in 2015. It is hoped that this will have a grassroots impact that can start the conversation and engage churches with their racial ethnic members and neighbors.

In addition, mid councils are being asked to promote gathering opportunities for women of color within synods and presbyteries to

pray, study, engage in fellowship, and network. The report directs mid councils to provide financial assistance, technological support, and help with space for these gatherings. The gatherings would help make others aware of the talents and abilities of women of color. The larger church can learn about the needs of the growing racial ethnic and new immigrant populations, many of which are near churches that sometimes do not even notice them.

There is a need for more racial ethnic leaders, particularly among our Presbyterian communities. There are many women of color who have not been heard by the wider church.

“This is a big step in recognizing the continuous struggle that women of color have had for many years in helping the church to become inclusive and to listen to the voices of women who haven’t had a voice in the wider church until recently,” said the Rev. Carmen Rosario, co-chair of the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns.

If the General Assembly passes the recommendations in the report, the next Women of Color Consultation would be held no later than the fall of 2015 and a report would be submitted to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) with recommendations for further action and study. To read the complete report, “Measure for Measure: Assessing the Effectiveness of Hearing and Singing New Songs to God,” go to tinyurl.com/led9oml and to read more about the Women of Color Consultation, go to tinyurl.com/meo7dyb.



2013 Women of Color Consultation participants.



“The Racial Ethnic Clergywomen’s Institute helped me to crystalize and to say, yes, I am going to prepare for whatever there is for me. Had I not done that, I am not sure I would have been fully prepared to become a pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Mount Vernon, New York.”

—Rev. Dr. Betty Griffin

Join us in equipping and connecting racial ethnic leadership.

As our country grows ever more diverse, it’s more important than ever that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) also grows in diversity by equipping and connecting racial ethnic individuals responding to God’s call to lead and serve in the church.

Your gifts will help make it possible for more racial ethnic women and men to step into leadership roles in the church and attend leadership development events. Make a gift today.



My check payable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is enclosed.

E048310

Amount of gift \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other

Credit card: Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Account# _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Phone (_____) _____

Make checks payable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Please mail your donation to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

RETORCH

Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW

221st General Assembly (2014) Events

Pre-General Assembly Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

3:00–9:30 P.M.

Pan Asian English Ministry Pastors Conference

Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries is gathering 1.5 and second-generation Pan Asian English Ministry pastors for leadership development, spiritual enrichment, networking and visioning that will inspire, equip and connect them for the changing landscape in the church.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

8:30 A.M.–12:00 noon

Pan Asian English Ministry Pastors' Conference

*Moderator's Convocation for Asian American Presbyterians
1:00–9:00 P.M.

Moderator Neal Presa invites you to an exciting gathering to celebrate, fellowship, worship, feast, sing, and discuss in creative ways how Asian American Presbyterians may impact the Church and culture in prophetic ways for our collective present-future.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

8:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. (includes lunch)

*Moderator's Convocation for Asian American Presbyterians

12:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M.

Women's Leadership Institute/Young Women's Leadership Event

The theme of the institute is "An Abundance of Power: The Relationship Between Vulnerability and Power," and it is designed to address issues faced by women in leadership of all ages.

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

A Season of Listening Session with the National Network of Presbyterian College Women and Racial Ethnic Young Women Together

* Event planned by the Moderator of the 220th General Assembly (2012).

Events during the General Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

7:00–9:00 A.M.

Women's Orientation Breakfast

8:45–9:30 A.M. /9:45–10:30 A.M.

Riverside Conversation: Equipping the Church for Ministry with God's Diverse Family (For commissioners only)

10:00 P.M.–midnight

Racial Ethnic & Women's Reception for the Moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014)

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

7:30–9:15 A.M.

Women of Faith Awards Breakfast

12:30–2:00 P.M.

Korean Lunch sponsored by the National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches

MONDAY, JUNE 16

12:00 noon–1:30 P.M.

New Immigrants and Emerging Communities Luncheon

6:00–8:00 P.M.

National Black Presbyterian Caucus Dinner

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

12:00–1:30 P.M.

National Racial Ethnic Caucuses and Councils Lunch

6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

National Asian Presbyterian Council Dinner

6:00–8:00 P.M.

Native American Consulting Committee Dinner

6:00–8:00 P.M.

National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus Banquet

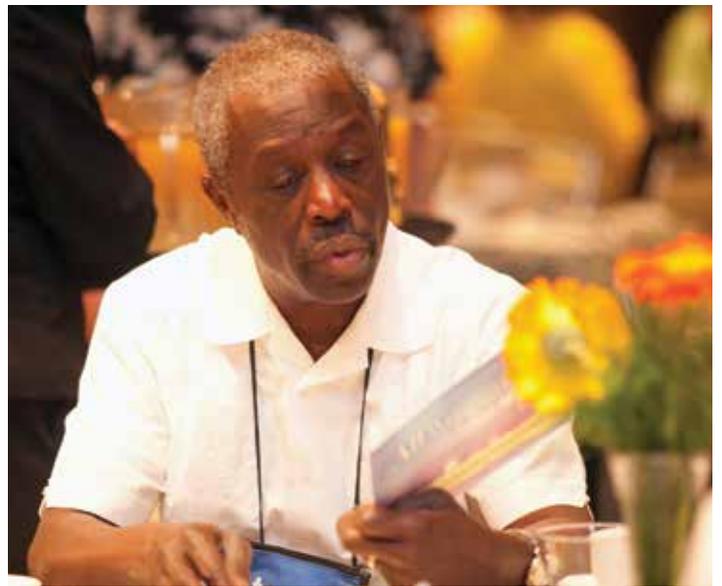
6:00–9:00 P.M.

National Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian Caucus Dinner

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

5:30–7:30 P.M.

Multicultural Church Dinner and Celebration



Other images from the 220th General Assembly

Caucus and denominational leaders to increase communication

By Vince Patton

Racial ethnic caucuses have played a pivotal role in working toward greater diversity and inclusiveness in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The denomination is experiencing its greatest growth among racial ethnic individuals—a reason for celebration and collaboration among caucus and denominational leaders.

Last fall, leaders from six racial ethnic caucuses and councils, the moderator of the General Assembly, the stated clerk of the General Assembly, and the executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency gathered to discuss ways that they and the whole church can work together to ensure that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a more inclusive body that reflects the diversity and commitment to justice that God intends. The request for the consultation was initiated by the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Board of Directors.

Rev. Dr. Leon E. Fanniel of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, who facilitated the discussion, says, “It was important to have a conversation about how racial ethnic caucuses can be in partnership with the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and the whole church in working together for justice, fairness, inclusion, and representation of racial ethnic individuals at all levels of the church.”

Racial ethnic caucuses have a rich history in the Presbyterian Church. The word caucus is derived from a Native American verb in the language of Algonquin nations, which means “to gather.” The first caucus was organized by African American clergy to advocate for justice in the church and community in 1856 and to maximize African American participation in the church. Other racial ethnic caucuses and councils, including Asian, Hispanic, and Native American, were formed in the 1970s. More recently, Korean and Middle Eastern Presbyterian caucuses and councils have been established.

The Articles of Agreement in the Book of Order include provisions allowing racial ethnic members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to form racial ethnic caucuses and to be in consultation with the Mission Agency about issues relevant to racial ethnic congregations and ministries.

“Rev. Dr. Neal Presa, Moderator of the 220th General Assembly (2012), says, “Racial ethnic caucuses have played an important role in advocating for strategies to address issues related to racial ethnic congregations. The consultation was an important first step to strengthening the lines of communication between the caucuses and the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency.”

Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the General Assembly, says, “This was an important conversation and a restart, if you will, of our effort to stay in contact with the leaders of the racial ethnic caucuses. Racial ethnic caucuses have played an important role in the life of the Presbyterian

Church. We look forward to being in partnership with them in our work to live out our call to be a more diverse and inclusive body.”

After the consultation, a work group was formed to implement one of several recommendations from the consultation. The work group developed a document that clarifies the relationship between the caucuses and the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The document describes the purpose of the caucuses and how the caucuses and the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency can be in regular communication and work together in partnership.

Other caucus, council, and committee representatives who participated in the consultation were Rev. Dr. Arlene Gordon, president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus; Ruling Elder Deborah Fair, chair of the Committee on Representation; Rev. Raafat Zaki, moderator of the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus and co-chair of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy; Ruling Elder Christine Darden, co-chair of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy; Rev. Buddy Monahan, vice moderator of the Native American Consulting Committee; Rev. Emmanuel Orendain, National Asian Presbyterian Council moderator; Rev. Mauricio Chacon, National Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian Caucus moderator; and Rev. Young Ghil Lee, vice moderator of the National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches.

Linda Valentine, executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, added, “We benefited greatly from the racial ethnic caucuses’ insights as we shared with one another our hopes and desires for what Christ’s church could—and should—look like. We also had an opportunity to talk about exciting new initiatives and leadership institutes in racial ethnic ministries, and programs that are already resulting in new leadership positions in the church for women and people of color. As we continue to live out and express our commitment to identifying, nurturing and sustaining diverse transformational leaders for the church, we have plans to do more listening and programming in the future.”

Racial Ethnic Caucuses and Councils Luncheon

Tuesday, June 17, 2014 @ 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

221st General Assembly, Detroit, MI

Gather with leaders of racial ethnic caucuses and councils for food and fellowship and hear highlights from Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries.

Not a Ticketed Event/By Invitation Only

New Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW Staff



Jewel McRae has joined Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW as the associate for Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries. For many years, Jewel served as the associate for Racial Ethnic Matching and Referrals/Church Leadership Connection in the Office of Vocation. In this new position, Jewel will reach out to women across the church to resource and facilitate ministries

with women leaders, and she will also support the Young Women's Ministries field staff as they work to provide leadership development opportunities and engage in ministry with young adult women.

58th UN Commission on the Status of Women

Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries sponsored nine young women to attend the 58th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, held on March 10-21. They joined 40 members of a PC(USA) delegation in advocating for policies related to hunger, access to quality education, employment and decision-making and health and violence against women and girls. The priority theme for this year's CSW was "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls."



Who We Are

The Ministries of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW:

Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Congregational Support Offices

- African American Congregational Support
- African Emerging Ministries
- Asian Congregational Support
- Cross Cultural Ministries, including
 - Middle Eastern Ministries
- Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support, including
 - Portuguese-Language Congregational Support
- Native American Congregational Support
- Korean Emerging Ministries, including
 - Korean English Ministries
- Multicultural Congregational Support
- Native American Congregational Support

Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

- Racial Ethnic Leadership Development
- Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges

Women's Leadership Development & Justice Ministries

- Gender & Racial Justice
- Women's Leadership Development & Young Women's Ministries

Presbyterian Women, Inc.

The Racial Ethnic Torch

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Published by the
Presbyterian Mission Agency,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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The Racial Ethnic Torch is published three times a year.

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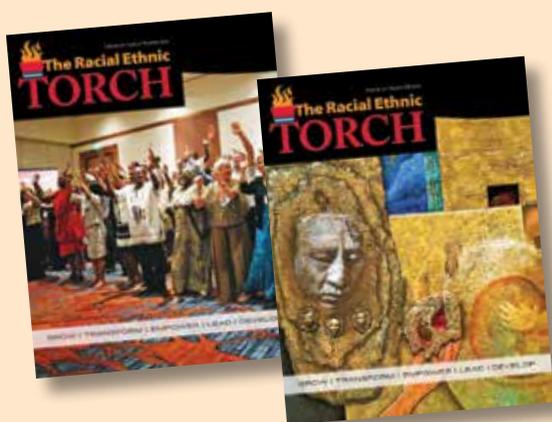
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The Racial Ethnic Torch is published by the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area. Since 1989, it has offered news, events, and issues of concern to racial ethnic Presbyterians. It connects you to new resources and upcoming events; it equips you with information to bolster your faith life and ministry; and it inspires you as we share stories about racial ethnic Presbyterians in the church. It is printed three times a year and is also available online.

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