



## RACIAL ETHNIC & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES/PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

To the Congregations and Mid Councils in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Colleagues in Christ,

**“God so loved the world . . .”** Jesus demonstrated that when differences are deeply engaged, new relationships emerge, and worldviews are expanded. The 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved item 11-04, “Strengthening Connections with Racial Ethnic Churches,” which reads, “invite every session to communicate with the session of at least one racial ethnic Presbyterian congregation in 2013 for the purposes of learning more about that congregation’s history and culture, increasing racial and cultural sensitivity in the whole church, engaging in mutual prayer for one another, and nurturing the connectional nature of our church.

The Assembly further asked that the councils and leadership teams of the presbyteries facilitate and reinforce this invitation to our sessions and report to the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC) a list of sessions accepting this invitation and their activities in this regard, as part of the annual year-end miscellaneous information form, and that the Office of the General Assembly collect and transmit this information to the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns.

Please share this General Assembly action with your session or council this fall. A list of resources to facilitate these connections, including racial ethnic congregations in the PC(USA) is found below. Also, see suggestions to facilitate these connections:

- Invite congregations to a “Get to Know You” event
- Plan a joint Bible study during Advent or Lent
- Plan a pulpit exchange and/or schedule special worship services to celebrate racial ethnic and cultural diversity in the church
- Gather to pray for and discuss community issues, concerns, and strengthening connections with racial ethnic churches
- Partner with another racial ethnic congregation in offering leadership development and/or cultural competency training. For more information on cultural competency training, contact the Office of Gender and Racial justice at 800-828-7228 x5458, <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racialjustice>

Please contact the Cross Cultural Ministries Office for further questions or suggestions.



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Websites: [www.pcusa.org/racialethnic](http://www.pcusa.org/racialethnic) | [www.pcusa.org/women](http://www.pcusa.org/women) | [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)