MINUTES

Monthly Meeting
COMMITTEE ON THE
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
February 17, 2022
Video Conference

WELCOME AND PRAYER The Stated Meeting of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) convened via video conference at 12:00 p.m. by Moderator Stephanie Anthony.	**WELCOME**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND AND OPENING PRAYER Kerry Rice led the acknowledgement of the sacred ground of our indigenous ancestors and led the Committee in prayer.	**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND**
READING OF POEM FROM THE 224TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020) AND OPENING PRAYER Kerry Rice read the poem from the 224th General Assembly and opened the meeting with prayer.	**READING OF POEM FROM THE 224TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020) AND OPENING PRAYER**
AGENDA APPROVAL [ITEM 1.1] By consensus the Committee approved the meeting agenda.	**AGENDA APPROVAL [ITEM 1.1]**
ATTENDANCE The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting. **<u>COGA Members</u>:** Stephanie Anthony, Moderator Eliana Maxim, Vice-Moderator Sam Bonner Dave Davis Lynn Hargrove Andy James Wilson Kennedy Blythe Kieffer Nigel Lovell-Martin Leeanne Masters Robin Pugh Sallie Watson Elona Street Stewart, Co-Moderator of the 224th GA (2020) J. Herbert Nelson II, Ex-officio **<u>EXCUSED</u>**	**PARTICIPANTS**

Shannan Vance-Ocampo Diane Moffett, Executive Director, PMAB **<u>OGA Staff:</u>** Kerry Rice Nancy Taylor Jihyun Oh Tricia Dykers-Koenig Julia Henderson Rick Jones Laurie Griffith Dianna Wright Nancy Taylor Luci Duckson-Bramble Vicente Guna DeAmber Clopton Kate Trigger Duffert Sonja Prescott valerie izumi Molly Casteel **<u>Other Guests:</u>** Kathy Lueckert, President, ASG Ruth Gardiner, ASG Mike Kirk, ASG April Davenport, ASG Ian Hall, ASG	
REPORT OF THE COGA MODERATOR Moderator Stephanie Anthony shared the COGA attendance and assignments for the 225th General Assembly (2022). Item [1.1.1], attached to these minutes**.**	**REPORT OF THE COGA MODERATOR, ITEM [1.1.1]**
REFLECTIONS ON USE OF EQUITY PRIME PROCESS Moderator Stephanie Anthony led the Committee in a discussion regarding the use of the Equity Prime process during the previous meeting.	**REFLECTIONS ON USE OF EQUITY PRIME PROCESS**
REPORT FROM STANDING RULES WORK GROUP - ITEM [1.2.1] AND ITEM [1.2.2] Andy James reported for the Standing Rules Work Group and requested approval of Items [1.2.1] and [1.2.2.] **MOTION MADE, SECOND AND PASSED** to approve the work of the Standing Rules Work Group as presented in Items [1.2.1] and [1.2.2] (attached to these minutes.)	**STANDING RULES WORK GROUP REPORT** **ITEM [1.2.1] AND ITEM [1.2.2]**

COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSE TO REFERRALS FROM THE 224TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020), ITEM [1.3] Kerry Rice asked the committee to approve the Committee's responses to referrals from the 224th General Assembly. **MOTION MADE, SECOND AND PASSED** to approve Item [1.3]. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly response to referrals from the 224th General Assembly (2020), (attached to these minutes.)	**COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSE TO REFERRALS FROM THE 224TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020) ITEM [1.3]**
EXTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION ON MID-COUNCILS [ITEM 1.4] Tricia Dykers Koenig reported on the request to extend the term of the Administrative Commission on Mid-Councils. **MOTION MADE, SECOND AND DISAPPROVED** to extend the term of the Administrative Commission on Mid Councils. Nigel (Leon) Lovell-Martin asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.	**EXTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION ON MID-COUNCILS [ITEM 1.4]**
CONSIDERATION OF ANTI-RACISM STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN IN COGA'S MANUAL OF OPERATIONS [Item 1.5] Sonja Prescott, valerie izumi and Molly Casteel requested approval of Item [1.5] **MOTION MADE, SECOND AND PASSED To** approve Item [1.5] (attached to these minutes) Anti-Racism Statement to be included the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly Manual of Operations.	**CONSIDERATION OF ANTI-RACISM STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN IN COGA'S MANUAL OF OPERATIONS [Item 1.5]**
CLOSED SESSION **MOTION MADE, SECOND AND PASSED** for the Committee to move into closed session for discussions on personnel and property issues.	**CLOSED SESSION**
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER After returning to open session Moderator Stephanie Anthony adjourned the meeting with prayer at 1:50 pm.	**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully Submitted:

Diane Minter

Committee on the Office of the General Assembly **Item 1.1**

Proposed Meeting Agenda
February 17, 2022
Zoom Video Conference

12:00 noon Opening

- Welcome – S. Anthony
- Acknowledgment of Native American Land – TBD
- Reading of Poem from GA224 – TBD
- Opening Prayer – TBD
- Approval of COGA Agenda (action) – S. Anthony [1.1]
- Attendance – S. Anthony and K. Rice
- Report of the COGA Moderator – S. Anthony
    - COGA Attendance at GA225 [1.1.1]

12:15 pm Sharing reflections on use of equity prime process during last meeting

12:30 pm GA225 Items

- Report from Standing Rules Work Group – A. James
    - Changes to Standing Rules [1.2.1]
    - Recommendation for formation of Special Committee to Review and Revise the Standing Rules [1.2.2]
- Responses to Referrals [1.3] – K. Rice
- Extending the Administrative Commission on Mid Councils [1.4] – T. Dykers Koenig

Consideration of Antiracism Statement to be included in COGA's Manual of Operations [1.5] – S. Prescott, v. izumi, and M. Casteel

1:15 pm Closed Session for personnel and property issues; COGA Voting Members Only. The Stated Clerk, Deputy Stated Clerk, and General Counsel are invited to join COGA for the session

1:30 pm Motion to adjourn with prayer

- Closing prayer – TBD

Upcoming Meetings:

- [on-line] Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 12:00 noon ET to 1:30 pm ET
- [on-line] Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 12:00 noon ET to 1:30 pm ET
- [in-person] Monday, April 18 to Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – Times and Location TBA
- [on-line] Monday, May 2, 2022, at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET (joint meeting with PC(USA), A Corp Board and PMAB to consider the unified presentation of the 2023-24 budget)
- [on-line] Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 12:00 noon ET to 1:30 pm ET
- General Assembly Schedule
    - [hybrid] Friday, June 17, 2022, at 1:00 pm ET
    - [hybrid] Sunday, June 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm ET (meeting to review Commissioners' Resolutions)
    - [hybrid daily gatherings] June 20, 21, 23 and 24 at 7:00 pm ET (for review of committee work)
    - [in-person] Saturday, June 25, at 7:00 pm ET

All times listed are Eastern

Block #3: Reports and Overtures

A.1.c.

It is the responsibility of the Stated Clerk to distribute the business of the assembly, with translations as appropriate, in a manner that allows the church to carefully discern the work of the assembly. All items of business submitted for action by the assembly, including any accompanying communications and resource material, shall be translated into the languages approved by the Stated Clerk. If materials submitted for a particular item of business exceed the word limit set for that category of business outlined below, the Stated Clerk shall determine whether to accept that item of business and may assess to the submitting body a fee for the costs of translation of the excess material.

Commissioners and advisory delegates need full access to the business of the Assembly. Leaving certain items untranslated, as is current practice, is an equity issue. This amendment clarifies this policy and practice and expands it to the full spectrum of business considered by the Assembly while merging language related to these expenses into a single location in the Standing Rules.

A.2.d

d. All reports shall be limited to five thousand words except the report of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the length of which shall be determined by the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A request for an exception to the length of a report, up to ten thousand words, shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk no later than forty-five days prior to the deadline for the submission of the report and shall include the anticipated length of the report. ~~The Stated Clerk may assess a fee of the entity or committee whose report exceeds five thousand words for the costs incurred in translating, printing and distributing the excess pages. Payment of the fee shall be submitted to the treasurer of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation.~~ If the Stated Clerk and the representatives of any body are unable to agree, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly shall determine the length of the report.

Reports are no longer printed, and the process for collecting the fee has changed, so the amendment reflects consistency with current practice.

A.3.b

b. Concurrences are items of business that have been approved by a presbytery that recommend an action identical to that in an overture already received for that assembly. The first concurrence received by the Stated Clerk, fulfilling *Book of Order*, G-3.0302d, must be submitted by the deadline~~s~~ appropriate for the overture ~~and entitles the submitting presbytery to an overture advocate~~. Subsequent concurrences must meet the forty-five-day rule for business. The recommendation, rationale, and any resource materials submitted for a concurrence shall ordinarily not exceed 1500 words.

The current wording inaccurately implies that mid councils submitting subsequent concurrences are not entitled to an overture advocate. A.3.f confirms that "Each council who submits an overture or concurrence may appoint only one overture advocate." This also adds a word limit for concurrences to bring them in line with overtures.

A.3.c

Update STAN-21 https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000817

"c. The stated clerk of a presbytery or synod considering an overture to the General Assembly shall:

"(1) Consult with the Office of the General Assembly regarding past and current actions on similar items of business, including:

"~~(1)~~ *a.* Examine**ing** the most recently published Minutes of the General Assembly *or electronic meeting records* to determine if a similar overture has already been passed.

"~~(2)~~ *b.* ~~Consult with the Office of the General Assembly to~~ determine**ing** whether the desired action has been *disapproved* ~~voted~~ by ~~any~~ *the* previous General Assembly.

"~~(3)~~ *c. .* ~~Consult with the Office of the General Assembly to~~ determine**ing** whether a similar overture has already been proposed in order that the presbytery or synod may consider concurr**ing** with the existing overture.

"Should the overture be determined to ~~deal with substantially the same issue~~ propose an action substantially the same as an action considered at the previous General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall determine whether or not to refer ~~them~~ it to the Assembly Committee on Business Referral. The Stated Clerk shall report to the committee regarding those overtures not referred.

"(2) ~~(4)~~ Draft the overture in the following form:

" 'The Presbytery of _____ overtures the [# of the assembly] General Assembly [(year)] of the PC(USA) to [state the specific action the General Assembly is asked to take].'

"To this shall be appended a rationale, stating the reasons for submitting the overture. The overture, rationale, and any resource materials submitted together shall ordinarily not exceed 1500 words." ~~The Stated Clerk may assess a fee to the synod or presbytery originating any overture or concurrence that exceeds 1500 words, including the rationale, for the costs incurred in translating the excess pages.~~

The existing Standing Rules do not provide guidance as to the purpose of consultation for both mid councils and staff facilitating consultation. This amendment makes clear what actions should be taken during the consultation process and gives instruction on subsequent steps that may be taken regarding the overture's referral to the General Assembly.

It also encourages overtures to be as succinct as possible, both to honor the time and energy of commissioners and advisory delegates who consider the overture, and to recoup the costs of translating lengthy documents.

Update STAN-20 https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000816

A.3.d-e

"d. Submitting Overtures

"(1) Overtures proposing an amendment to the Constitution or requiring an interpretation by the General Assembly of the Book of Order (see Book of Order, G-6.04a and G6.02) must be *submitted* ~~delivered in writing~~ to the Stated Clerk ~~postmarked~~ no later than 120 days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, and shall be promptly referred to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (see Book of Order, G-6.02 and G-6.04).

"(2) All overtures that have financial implications for current or future years' budgets must be *submitted* ~~delivered in writing~~ to the Stated Clerk ~~postmarked~~ no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the General Assembly. ~~Overtures with financial implications not received within the designated time limit shall not be considered, but shall be returned to the originating council.~~

"(3) All other overtures intended for consideration by the General Assembly shall be *submitted* ~~forwarded~~ to the Stated Clerk, ~~postmarked~~ no later than forty-five days before the convening of the General Assembly.

"(4) Overtures not received within the designated time limits shall not be considered~~, but shall be returned to the originating council for reconsideration~~.

"(5) Presbyteries or synods submitting overtures with a recommendation(s) that affects the work or budget of a General Assembly entity(ies) shall submit **with the overture** evidence that the affected entity(ies) has (have) been consulted. ~~*in an appendix to the overture*~~. If such evidence is not submitted, the ~~Stated Clerk shall recommend that the overture be received and referred to a future session of the General Assembly so that consultation may take place~~ **the overture shall not be considered.**

~~"e. Overtures that do not propose constitutional amendment or interpretation, and that are postmarked at least sixty days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, shall be published (print or electronic) in the reports distributed by the Stated Clerk. Overtures received in the same manner, postmarked no later than forty-five days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, shall be distributed to the commissioners before the convening of the General Assembly."~~

With the transition from a paper-driven assembly to a digital process, the language regarding submission of papers does not reflect the reality of the process. These amendments enable the Standing Rules to catch up with the digital process for submission of papers to the General Assembly, and reduces repetition.

A.6.b.

add a new section b and renumber following paragraphs:

A commissioners' resolution that exceeds 750 words, including the rationale, shall not be accepted for referral.

The timeline for translation of commissioners resolutions is very short, so it is important to be succinct. 750 words is half of that permitted in an overture, which has been reviewed by a larger representative council of the church.

C.3.c

c. Items of business to be considered by the General Assembly shall be referred in one of the following ways:

(1) for consideration by an assembly committee and recommendation for action by the General Assembly;

(2) for consideration and action by an assembly committee with a report of the action to the General Assembly;

(3) for consideration by the General Assembly through its inclusion in a consent agenda when the committee has approved a motion by 75 percent or more;

(4) for consideration by the General Assembly in a plenary business session;

(5) declined for referral.

The amendment clarifies that some submitted items of business may be declined for referral.

New Item: Amendment to C.1.c.

The **[Co-]**Moderator**[s]**of the General Assembly shall appoint a moderator and a vice moderator to each committee. The moderator positions are filled by commissioners to the upcoming General Assembly or may be from an assembly within the last six years. All vice moderator positions shall be filled by commissioners to the upcoming General Assembly. Final appointment shall be made only after consultation with ~~the~~ **a representative of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**, and then also with **a** representative~~s~~ of the General Assembly Committee on Representation regarding the inclusivity mandated in the Book of Order, F- 1.0403 and G-3.0103. The moderators of at least one-half of the assembly committees, including any committees dealing with finance and budgets, shall be ruling elders. The moderators of at least one-half of the assembly committees should be women. The moderators of at least two-thirds of the assembly committees shall be current commissioners. No more than one person from any one presbytery may be appointed to serve as a moderator. All synods shall be ~~equitably~~ represented **across the full spectrum of moderator and vice-moderator appointments**.

This language is more expansive and better reflects current practice.

FOR ACTION

Item 1.4
COGA – February 17, 2022

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly recommends the following action for consideration by the 225th General Assembly (2022):

1. Continue a General Assembly Commission on Mid Councils, to serve until the convening of the 226th General Assembly (2024), with the authority to act as the General Assembly by "approving the acts of synods to organize, divide, unite, or combine presbyteries or portions of presbyteries" (G-3.0502e), and to approve mid council name changes, when the synods and presbyteries involved have approved the actions, with the exception of matters related to new non-geographical presbyteries. The [Co-]Moderator[s] of the 225th General Assembly (2022) would have the option of reappointing some or all members of the Administrative Commission that has been serving, filling any vacancies, or appointing a new group to serve until the 226th General Assembly (2024).
2. Direct the Office of the General Assembly, in consultation with the General Assembly Committee on Representation, consult with mid councils to explore whether such an administrative commission should be made permanent, and report to the 226th General Assembly (2024) with a proposal to implement that change if warranted.

Rationale: The 224th General Assembly (2020) authorized the formation of an Administrative Commission on Mid Councils in response to an overture from the Synod of the Northeast, which was nearing the conclusion of a lengthy process of reorganizing the presbyteries in New Jersey but was not ready for action to be taken by summer 2020. The Administrative Commission was able to consider and approve that reorganization when the proposal was ready, allowing the presbyteries to move on with their mission without waiting for action by the 225th General Assembly (2022). The Administrative Commission also approved several other actions that were submitted to the 224th General Assembly (2020) but could not be considered due to the special circumstances forced by the pandemic.

Other conversations about changes in presbytery boundaries and names are still happening across the church and will likely continue. An administrative commission with the power of the General Assembly to approve actions that all parties have agreed are beneficial would allow a nimble response not tied to a meeting that happens only every two years. It would also save the time of the full General Assembly. The creation of a new non-geographic presbytery would be the exception, as that should be a decision of the fully representative body. In the meantime, the Office of the General Assembly, in consultation with the General Assembly Committee on Representation, can explore whether and how such an administrative commission should become a permanent part of our structure.

Antiracism Statement

Item XX
COGA – February 17, 2022

Recommendation: That the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly adopt on behalf of the Office of the General Assembly the cross-agency antiracism statement crafted by the Diverse Voices Table and the executives of each agency and entity. Further, that this statement be added to COGA's Manual of Operations and an appendix.

Rationale: This policy was written in response to item 00-29 from the 224th General Assembly:

> "Recommendation 5: Recommend that PC(USA) congregations, mid councils, and all General Assembly entities develop and adopt an antiracism policy in their bylaws by engaging Item 02-137, 'On Amending G-3.0106 to Add an Antiracism Policy with Suggested Training for All Members of Each Council.' This work can be done now at all levels, even in advance of the 225th General Assembly (2022), at which time that General Assembly can act on setting a constitutional requirement to do so if it chooses."

In response to this recommendation, executives from each of the six agencies and two entities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) tasked the Diverse Voices Table with crafting a joint antiracism statement that would go before each agency/entity board for approval. The DVT worked closely with agency and entity executives to develop an antiracism statement with core text that reflects PC(U.S.A.) values and respects the unique implementation needs of each agency and entity.

Antiracism Statement

Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churchwide antiracism policy, affirms that "racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. … [it] is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others.[i]" Racism is a system of racial prejudice exerted by those in power — institutionally and individually, consciously and unconsciously — that is deeply ingrained in the history of the United States. It benefits white people in the dominant culture while disadvantaging and oppressing people of color.

As the six agencies and two entities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are part of an institution founded and historically run by white people that remains approximately 88% white. We must come to terms with those numbers and their implications for the work we do, and the audiences we reach[ii]. We are undeniably implicated in the entrenched legacies of racism and white supremacy that continue to shape the United States and our church.

The church is mandated in *Facing Racism* to "embrace antiracism as a major part of [our] corporate identity." To this end, we state unequivocally that racism and all forms of discrimination and marginalization are sins against humanity and God, inconsistent with our Christian and corporate values and unacceptable within our agencies and entities. We understand that each of our agencies and entities "must unlearn and undo existing racist values and structures" that persist despite our expressed values and intentions if we are to create an antiracist church where "all persons are treated with respect, all gifts are valued and encouraged, and diversity is a gift to be valued.[iii]"

We recognize the strides we have made, even as we acknowledge there is more work to do. As we strive to be an antiracist church, we commit to:

- Repenting of the role we collectively and individually have played and continue to play in creating and maintaining white supremacy and systemic racism;
- providing antiracism and cultural humility training for employees as directed by the church wide antiracism policy;
- developing and implementing practices and strategies to disrupt and dismantle racism and oppression in the church and the world;
- striving for racial equity in recruitment, hiring, and retention of employees;
- expanding our use of diverse suppliers as directed by General Assembly actions;
- managing church investments in ways that increase our witness to racial justice and equity;
- taking steps of reparation and restorative action in response to disparities of wealth created and sustained by white supremacy[iv];
- working in partnership with mid councils in their antiracism ministries;
- acting courageously and creatively against police brutality, voter suppression, educational and healthcare inequity, and other acts and practices of systemic racism on federal, state, and local levels; and

Members from the Moving Forward Implementation Special Committee have also participated.

c. Item 02-032. The Moving Forward Implementation Commission Recommendation and Report. Recommendation 7. Direct the Office of the General Assembly to add the Way Forward Commission's Action on Trust and Transparency as an appendix to the General Assembly Manual. [See Appendix 1 for the full text of this Way Forward Commission action.]

Response: The document has been added to the Manual of the General Assembly.

d. Item 02-032. Moving Forward Implementation Commission Recommendations and Report. Recommendation 9. Direct the executives or presidents of the agencies and entities to continue the work of the Diverse Voices Table—From the Moving Forward Implementation Commission (Minutes, 2020, Part I, pp. 10–11, 303 of the electronic copy).

Response: The Stated Clerk has continued the appointment of two employees to represent the Office of the General Assembly at meetings of the Diverse Voices Table (DVT) and remains greatly appreciative of their work as part of a collaborative intra-entity body. The Stated Clerk receives updates from these members following each DVT meeting and is guided by their expertise and collective experience in implanting OGA's own diversity, equity and inclusion plan.

e. Item 02-077. A Resolution on Preventing, Reporting, and Responding to Bullying, Harassment and Assault. Recommendation 1. Direct the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), in consultation with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) and the Administrative Services Group (ASG), to develop a comprehensive, transparent process for preventing, reporting, and responding to bullying, harassment, and assault offenses at General Assembly.

Response: Staff from the Office of the General Assembly have consulted with members of ACWC and partnered with staff from PMA and ASG. We are committed to developing and implementing a process as outlined in the recommendation.

f. Item 02-112. On the Inclusion and Inclusive Gender Options when Gender Information in Collected by Any Entity in the PC(USA).

Response: As the Office of the General Assembly continues to build and or update its data systems, we are also updating the information that we gather. We are including other identities beyond the binary male and female.

Responses to Referrals – 225th General Assembly (2022)

A. Committee on the Office of the General Assembly

1. 2018 Referral: Item 05-09. Commissioners' Resolution: On the Challenge of Being Black in the PC(USA). Recommendation 3. Direct the Office of the Stated Clerk to Respond to the Presbyteries That the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Has Identified as Not Abiding by Committee on Representation Guidelines. (Minutes, 2018, Part I, pp. 24,224)

Response: Complete. The Stated Clerk received the list of identified presbyteries from the National Black Presbyterian Caucus in October 2021. The OGA is engaged with the presbyteries to demonstrate structures for implementing equity and inclusion work within their councils in compliance with G-3.0103. To that end, OGA has developed a tool for presbyteries to annually share inclusion data and invited the identified mid councils to participate regularly in that sharing. That work continues and the mechanism will also be available to any interested presbytery to participate. Those who use the tool will have reports and have trending reports available after 5 years. Access will be available to stated clerks and promoted in appropriate avenues with officers of presbyteries. This tool is in addition to the support and resources offered by OGA to strengthen equity and representation work in mid councils. Building on more than 12 years of electronically collected synod data and the ability to share trends with the wider church, we expect presbytery data to add to the transparency offered to the church. Where appreciated, access to the Intercultural Development Inventory assessments will be offered to mid councils.

2. 2018 Referral: Item 05-09. Commissioners' Resolution: On the Challenge of Being Black in the PC(USA). Recommendation 4. The Office of the General Assembly is to report within one year to presbyteries and synods concerning the progress on this resolution and a full report to the 224th General Assembly (2020). (Minutes, 2018, Part I, pp. 24, 224).

Response: Complete. The Office of the General Assembly responds to the referral with the response to recommendation 3 above.

3. 2020 Referral: Item 00-29. On the Church in This Moment in History. Recommendation 3. Direct the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to review all items of business referred from the 224th General Assembly (2020) to the 225th General Assembly (2022) to consider prayerfully whether the recommendations could be enacted under current social witness policy or the authority of agencies and their boards to make programmatic decisions between assemblies – From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (Minutes, 2020, Part I, pp. 14-17, 27, 99-103 of the electronic copy).

Responses to Referrals – 225th General Assembly (2022)

Response: The Office of the General Assembly carefully reviewed all the referrals assigned from the 224th General Assembly (2020). Some of the work could be accomplished based on existing policy, capacity and/or budget. Here is a summary:

a. Item 00-29. On the Church in This Moment in History. Recommendation 5. Recommend that PC(USA) congregations, mid councils, and all General Assembly entities develop and adopt an antiracism policy in their bylaws by engaging Item 02-137, 'On Amending G-3.0106 to Add an Antiracism Policy with Suggested Training for All Members of Each Council.' This work can be done now at all levels, even in advance of the 225th General Assembly (2022), at which time that General Assembly can act on setting a constitutional requirement to do so if it chooses—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (Minutes, 2020, Part I, pp. 14-17, 27, 99-103 of the electronic copy).

   Response: The Office of the General Assembly, through the collaborative Diverse Voices Table, worked in partnership with other General Assembly entities to develop a common anti-racism statement that could be added to each entity's bylaws or manuals. This document will be considered for inclusion in the Manual of Operations of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly at a February 2022 meeting.

b. Item 02-032. Moving Forward Implementation Commission Recommendations and Report. Recommendation 6. Direct the Stated Clerk, the President/Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and the President of A Corporation to create a coordination table that is comprised of the entities and leadership boards and/or committees under the A Corp—From the Moving Forward Implementation Commission (Minutes, 2020, Part I, pp. 10–11, 303 of the electronic copy).

   Response: The Stated Clerk, working collaboratively with the Executive Director/President of PMA and the President of the church corporation, has established a fifteen-member Coordination Table as mandated by the Moving Forward Implementation Commission. In addition to the executives, membership consists of two elected members and two employees from each entity. Meetings have been at least bi-monthly (and often monthly) and have focused on elements of the mandate.