

Event:

Committee:

222nd General Assembly (2016)

[11] Social Justice Issues

Business

Members

Schedule

Action Summary

222nd General Assembly (2016)

[11] Social Justice Issues

Location: A105-106

Consider matters related to: Concerns of church in national affairs; national military matters; matters relating to righteousness and justice of persons/organizations.

Item	Item Title	CA	AA
[11-01]	▶ On Adding a New Standing Rule F.5.c. Regarding Social Witness Policy Statements or Resolutions at the General Assembly—From the Presbytery of the Foothills.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-02]	▶ On Setting Aside “Forming Social Policy” at the Next Three General Assemblies—From the Presbytery of the Foothills.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-03]	▶ On Choosing to Be a Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25—From the Presbytery of the Cascades.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-04]	▶ [Item 11-04 became Item 12-09. There is no Item 11-04.]		
[11-05]	▶ On the Admission of, and Apology for, Harms Done to the LGBTQ/Q Members of the PC(USA), Family and Friends—From the Presbytery of New York City.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-06]	▶ On Resources for Learning, Reflection, and Reconciliation—From the Presbytery of John Knox.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-07]	▶ [Item 11-07 became Item 12-10. There is no Item 11-07.]		
[11-08]	▶ On Offering an Apology to Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians—From the Presbytery of Baltimore.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-09]	▶ On Celebrating a Significant Social Witness Anniversary—From the Presbytery of Chicago.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-10]	▶ On Reconciliation and Engagement in a New Civil Rights Movement—From the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-11]	▶ [Item 11-11 has become Item 09-12. There is no Item 11-11.]		
[11-12]	▶ On the PC(USA) Continuing Its Efforts to Dismantle Racism within Our Denomination and the Larger Society—From the Presbytery of Baltimore.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- [11-13] ▶ Election Protection and Integrity in Campaign Finance—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. ✔ ✔

- [11-14] ▶ Refer Item 11-14 to Committee 14 to become Item 14-14.

- [11-15] ▶ [Item 11-15 became Item 03-12. There is no Item 11-15.]

- [11-16] ▼ On Equipping and Mobilizing Member Congregations to Better Serve Those Living with HIV/AIDS—From the Presbytery of National Capital. ✔ ✔

[11-16] On Equipping and Mobilizing Member Congregations to Better Serve Those Living with HIV/AIDS—From the Presbytery of National Capital.

Source:	Presbytery	Event:	222nd General Assembly (2016)
Committee:	[11] Social Justice Issues	Sponsor:	National Capital Presbytery
		Type:	General Assembly Full Consideration

Action Summary

Recommendation	Action
On this Item, the General Assembly acted as follows:	Approve as Amended (AA)
On this Item, the Social Justice Issues Committee acted as follows:	Approve as Amended (CA)

Assembly Action

On this Item, the General Assembly acted as follows:

Approve as Amended

Voice Vote

Committee Recommendation

On this Item, the Social Justice Issues Committee acted as follows:

Approve as Amended

Counted Vote - Committee

Affirmative:56

Negative:4

Abstaining:

Final text:

Amend Recommendation 1. as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with brackets and with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline.]

"1. Equip and mobilize its member congregations to better serve those living among us with HIV-AIDS by the development of the following initiatives:

"a. A mission-based program to create a certificate program in response to the action of the 219th General Assembly (2010), 'Becoming an HIV, AIDS[, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C] Competent Church: Prophetic Witness and Compassionate Action' (*Minutes*, 2010, Part I, pp. 72-73, 1370ff). This effort will support the church in its continued prophetic witness on issues of HIV and AIDS, to specifically expand the prophetic witness into practical application.

"b. ~~[An annual HIV-AIDS conference that would be conducted in partnership with the ten seminaries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)]~~ [Commission delegates of the denomination to attend an existing domestic or international HIV/AIDS conference.]

"2. Instruct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to work with the Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN) to coordinate a development strategy and activities to raise the following revenue to support these initiatives: \$150,000 over a three-year period to be utilized to operationalize ~~[these two initiatives]~~ [this initiative.]"

Recommendation

The Presbytery of National Capital overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to do the following:

1. Equip and mobilize its member congregations to better serve those living among us with HIV-AIDS by the development of the following initiatives:

a. A mission-based program to create a certificate program in response to the action of the 219th General Assembly (2010), "Becoming an HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C Competent Church: Prophetic Witness and Compassionate Action" (*Minutes*, 2010, Part I, pp. 72-73, 1370ff). This effort will support the church in its continued prophetic witness on issues of HIV and AIDS, to specifically expand the prophetic witness into practical application.

b. An annual HIV-AIDS conference that would be conducted in partnership with the ten seminaries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

2. Instruct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to work with the Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN) to coordinate a development strategy and activities to raise the following revenue to support these initiatives: \$150,000 over a three-year period to be utilized to operationalize these two initiatives.

Rationale

The 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved the document “Becoming an HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C Competent Church: Prophetic Witness and Compassionate Action” in response to HIV and AIDS pandemic. Included in that document were the following actions:

Challenge the PC(USA) to become an HIV and AIDS competent denomination at all levels of the church and in all its ministries ...

Call upon congregations to accept the challenge to become an HIV and AIDS competent church by studying the HIV and AIDS related policies and resources of the PC(USA) ...

[Develop] denominational standards defining the [criteria] of HIV and AIDS competent congregations and ministries, in accordance with PC(USA) policies and in collaboration with ecumenical partners in HIV and AIDS ministries ...

Call upon presbyteries to include pastoral training related to HIV and AIDS competency as part of a qualified candidate’s preparation for ministry.

Commend Presbyterian theological seminaries that have incorporated HIV and AIDS education into their community life. (*Minutes*, 2010, Part I, p. 1370)

In response to this action by the 219th General Assembly (2010) and the release in 2015 of the 2.0 version of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, we propose to develop a four-course certificate program that will focus on pastoral care for those living with HIV-AIDS, preaching sermons that lift those oppressed by HIV-AIDS, scientific education to ensure the HIV-AIDS literacy of participants, and practicum study opportunities with local agencies providing services to those living with HIV-AIDS.

The purpose of this program is to gather, equip, and mobilize church leaders to develop the skills and resources for creating AIDS competent congregations. Without advancing a particular biblical or theological position, the goal is twofold: (1) increase the health literacy of congregations related to HIV-AIDS, and (2) to work with church leaders to formulate and articulate biblical, theological, pastoral, and moral/ethical foundations, which are consistent with each church’s mission/vision. Throughout the duration of the program, participants will actively work with their congregations to address HIV and AIDS systematically and to integrate the foundations from the program into the everyday life and ministry of their congregations.

In addition to the certificate program, it is essential that the church conduct regular opportunities for the Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN) to gather together and share best practices and skills to further the creation of collaborations in the various presbyteries of the church. The mechanism for this effort would be the annual HIV-AIDS conference that will not only be a platform for the “HIV-AIDS Competent Church” agenda but it will also serve as a recruiting tool for the certificate program as the target audience will primarily be the students of our various seminaries. These are the future leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and as such it is imperative that they be introduced to this critical social justice arena during their formative theological education.

Too often, reports such as “Becoming an HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C Competent Church: Prophetic Witness and Compassionate Action” are just left to collect dust on shelves. We stand at a critical juncture in the trajectory of this pandemic and if we are to win the battle, it will require all hands on deck including first and foremost the church.

With financial support from the General Assembly, PAN will be able to systematically develop these two programs that will serve as the benchmarks for creating a standardized approach to the delivery of HIV-AIDS services and ministry throughout the entire body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

It has been five years since the creation of the report so now is the time to move forward by activating the strategies outlined in the 2010 report. We look forward to support from the General Assembly to continue this critical work toward getting to ZERO in terms of new infections, deaths related to HIV-AIDS, perinatal infections, and overall discrimination related to HIV-AIDS.

Financial Implication

Presbyterian Mission Agency - \$89,990 (2017) \$92,390 (2018)

Presbyterian Mission Agency - \$0 (2017) \$0 (2018) - Revised

Other Comments

ACREC Advice

The Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns advises that the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approve Item 11-16.

Clear evidence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicating that racial ethnic groups, particularly African Americans, constitute the majority of the population living with and at risk for the HIV/AIDS virus is readily available (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/ataglace.html>). That being the reality, ACREC, in concurrence with the action of the 219th General Assembly (2010) in its approval of "Becoming an HIV and AIDS Competent Church: Prophetic Witness and Compassionate Action" (Item 19-05: <https://pc-biz.org/#/search/3227>) in response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic, strongly advises approval of this overture.

ACSWP Advice

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy advises approval of Item 11-16 with amendment to Recommendation 1.a. to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with brackets and with a strike-through.]

"a. A mission-based program to create a certificate program in response to the action of the 219th General Assembly (2010), 'Becoming an HIV, AIDS[, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C] Competent Church: Prophetic Witness and Compassionate Action" (Minutes, 2010, Part I, pp. 72-73, 1370 ff). This effort will support the church in its continued prophetic witness on issues of HIV and AIDS, to specifically expand the prophetic witness into practical application."

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy affirms the need for continued ministry to persons with HIV-AIDS, preventive action by public health authorities, and international cooperation in medical research and treatment. The two initiatives are creative possibilities. So why the recommended change in the title?

The wording of the title of the report that appears in quotation marks was, in fact, clarified on the floor of the 219th General Assembly (2010) by Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons in response to a challenge by a medical doctor from North Dakota. Late the Friday night before, a commissioner had recommended that everywhere in the report that “HIV-AIDS” appeared, so should the words, “Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C,” as these diseases do often accompany the spread of HIV-AIDS by shared needles. This was quickly approved. The next morning, however, the MD commissioner asked if the assembly had realized that this action would make much of the text literally false, as the diseases, their treatments, and their stigma are quite different. In response, the Stated Clerk affirmed for the record that the assembly would not knowingly publish falsehood or false witness in any form. While the wrongly amended title appears in the *Minutes*, the printed and downloadable version of the report uses the corrected title: <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/becoming-an-hiv-and-aids-competent-church/>. Certainly if fundraising for the initiatives were to be effective, the original name of the report would need to be used.

ACWC Advice

The Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns advises that the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approve Item 11-16.

The Advocacy for Women’s Concerns (ACWC) fully supports this overture and concurs with the Presbytery of Baltimore on its rationale for raising this critical issue. The ACWC is particularly concerned about the significant impact of HIV/AIDS on women in the United States and around the globe. Worldwide more than half of the people who live with HIV/AIDS are women. For women in their reproductive years, HIV is the leading cause of death, with 62 percent of new diagnoses occurring with adolescent girls. In the United States, 1 in 4 people living with HIV are women and, at 62 percent, black women are a disproportionate number of the diagnosed with HIV.

As all of God’s creation is created in the image and likeness of God, Jesus beseeched us to show care for God’s creation. And he implored us to particularly care for the sick, among others. As the church we are called to show the unshakable fidelity of God's love and this overture demonstrates that love in action.

PMA Comment

The Presbyterian Mission Agency has consistently advocated to increase global AIDS funding through its Office of Public Witness, and was a key part of the coalition advocating for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This overture will enhance current social witness policy.

Some of the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s global partners in Africa have made fighting AIDS and preventing its resurgence a priority. Our World Mission personnel were consulted in the drafting of the overture and its inputs are already reflected in the submitted overture.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency cannot presently devote an existing staff person for the activities suggested in the overture, but would need to create a new position outside the budget if financial resources became available. Mobilizing a funds development effort toward this new priority would require a significant diversion of resources away from currently established mission and funding priorities. The startup costs for a new effort would be unlikely to generate consequential funding for the cause during the first five years of such efforts. We would, therefore, encourage congregations to use existing methods of fundraising, such as the portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering retained locally to be used toward this cause, either by encouraging the support of the Presbyterian AIDS Network, or another Christian HIV/AIDS ministry with which the PC(USA) is partnership.

Concurrence

Ohio Valley

Additional Resources

Language-Korean
11-16 - Ovt 080.pdf

[11-17]	▶ On Reviewing the Doctrine of Discovery—From the Presbytery of National Capital.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-18]	▶ A Review of Efforts Regarding Cultural Proficiency and Creating a Climate for Change in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[11-19]	▶ ACREC Recommendations to the General Assembly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[11-20]	▶ Recommendations Regarding “Gospel from Detroit: Renewing the Church’s Urban Vision”—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

20 items displayed.