

ITEM 212 FOR INFORMATION

Report on Dallas II Church-wide Consultation

The 217th General Assembly (2006) instructed the Moderator, the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council (now Presbyterian Mission Agency) to convene a Consultation on the Worldwide Mission of the Church and tasked World Mission to organize it. The first Dallas Consultation took place at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. Sixty-four people from across the church and around the world gathered to build greater trust and coordination among PC(USA) “mission initiators,” mission supporters and the GAMC ministries and to identify and agree upon the “benchmarks” (core values) and consequent “mission practices” that should characterize all Presbyterian mission work.

Following up on the consultation, World Mission conducted an in-depth study of mission leaders across the denomination, among ecumenical and global partner churches and organizations, and others and heard both hopes and concerns for how our church might increase the faithfulness and effectiveness with which we engage together in God’s mission. An insight was heard frequently from the study’s participants: while construction projects, Vacation Bible Schools, feeding programs and other short-term projects are often meaningful efforts in mission, our global partners, mission workers and Presbyterians across the United States pointed out a disturbing reality: **much of American churches’ efforts have become short-term in focus and address almost exclusively the *symptoms* of poverty, violence and injustice, rather than the causes.**

Our global partners challenged us to do something more. They have identified *three critical global issues* to which they need us to respond with them, in order to make a lasting difference in God’s world:

- ***Address the root causes of global poverty...***
... especially as it impacts women and children;
- ***Share the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ ...***
...together with other members of Christ’s body.
- ***Work for reconciliation amidst cultures of violence...***
...including our own;

Facilitated by Rick Ufford-Chase (Presbyterian Peace Fellowship) and Bridgette Ben-Naimah (Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana), two hundred thirty (230) Presbyterian and ecumenical mission leaders gathered in Dallas, TX 5-7 October 2012 to develop shared strategies to make a collective impact for justice, witness and reconciliation and to open the door to thousands of PC(USA) congregations and others to bridge geographical and theological divides as we work together in a common mission.

The group was composed of global partners, mission personnel, Presbyterian Women, Young Adult Volunteer alumni, ecumenical mission leaders, seminary professors of mission, seminarians, mission advocates, mission networks leaders, congregation mission leaders, and the leaders of several Presbyterian mission organizations. The 230 Consultation participants affirmed a common structure for mission (attached diagram) and organized a Continuation Committee that has developed nine concrete and compelling strategies to invite Presbyterians from across the U.S. to join with global and ecumenical partners to make a collective impact on the issues that (attached document). World Mission has

restructured its work to increase its focus on the nine strategies and to inspire, equip and connect Presbyterians to engage in more faithful and effective mission.

Dallas II Strategies to Respond to the Three Critical Global Issues

Poverty: *“Address the root causes of poverty, particularly as it impacts women and children.”*

1. HandsOnPartnership: “Diseases of Poverty Strategy”
Address diseases of poverty through Community Health Evangelism and programs of maternal and child health, water, sanitation, community-based development, disaster preparedness and response.
2. EmpoweringPartners: “Education Strategy”
Empower marginalized people—especially women and girls-- through literacy, basic and secondary education.
3. Advocacy: “Food, Land and Trade Justice Strategy”
Promote people’s dignity through advocacy and development in favor of food sovereignty, land and trade justice, corporate responsibility and creation care.

Evangelism: *“Share the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ.”*

4. HandsOnPartnership: “Evangelism and Discipleship Strategy”
Support partners’ holistic models of evangelism focused on grassroots outreach and discipleship.
5. EmpoweringPartners: “Leader Training Strategy”
Equip the global Church through context-appropriate theological education and leadership development.
6. Advocacy: “Accompany the Persecuted Church Strategy”
Where Christian witness is threatened or at risk, accompany the Church through prayer, advocacy and capacity-building.

Reconciliation: *“Work for reconciliation amidst cultures of violence, including our own.”*

7. HandsOnPartnership: “Accompany Victims of Violence Strategy”
Support the victims of violence (including domestic violence, trafficking and harmful cultural practices) through trauma recovery, education and advocacy.
8. EmpoweringPartners: “Peacemaking Strategy”
Facilitate theologically-grounded, just peacemaking in contexts of conflict such as intra- denominational, inter-religious, inter-ethnic and political discord, especially where U.S. society, government or corporations play a major role.
9. Advocacy: “Root Causes of Violence Strategy”
Prevent violent conflict through awareness-raising, accompaniment, advocacy and support of good governance initiatives and just economic policies.



