



Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations
Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries
Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.



September 30, 2016

Dear Friends:

Eleven years ago, Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) recommended that an active member of the organization attend the **United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**. Since then, Presbyterian participation has expanded to include Presbyterians from across the church. Each year, PW collaborates with the PC(USA)'s UN office and other offices of the PC(USA) to organize an official Presbyterian delegation. Delegates attend Commission sessions and high-level side events on UN grounds, and parallel events organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY. The 61st Session of the Commission is scheduled for **March 13–24, 2017**. The 2017 delegation will be smaller than in recent years (20), but each member will have access to the full Commission. *You* could be a member of the PC(USA) delegation. This letter includes an application form, additional information about the Commission and information about the activities of the Presbyterian delegation. You also will find an application form for a one-week scholarship for women ages 18–35. *Please complete and return the application form (and the scholarship application form, if you qualify and wish to be considered for a scholarship) by November 3, 2016*, to be considered for the PC(USA) delegation to the 61st UN Commission on the Status of Women.

About the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It meets at UN headquarters in New York City. The Commission formulates policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide, and assesses progress toward the implementation of those policies. Presbyterian participants, guided by PC(USA) General Assembly policy, join partners in Ecumenical Women to advocate with the Commission for God's justice and peace. Participants are inspired and equipped to advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment at the international level and to use their experiences from the Commission at the local, state and national level.

About the 61st Session of the Commission

The 61st session of CSW will focus on the priority theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." The Commission will also review the theme of the 58th Session of CSW, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls." Learn more at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017.

More about the NGO Forum

Each year NGO CSW/NY organizes a forum of parallel events that takes place during the Commission, and a Consultation Day to help participants prepare for the Commission. The NGO Forum is open to anyone who wishes to attend. In fact, if you apply for the delegation but are not selected, you are encouraged to participate in the Forum. Dozens of nongovernmental organizations recognized by ECOSOC, including the PC(USA), hold panel events during the forum on topics as far-reaching as the effects of climate change on the lives of women, education for women and girls, and ending violence against women and girls.

Presbyterian Participation

Presbyterians advocate through Ecumenical Women (EW), an international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organizations at the UN. Presbyterian participants attend EW's orientation on the Saturday before CSW, and a Presbyterian orientation *either Friday evening before or on Saturday during a break from the EW orientation*. Details to come. Presbyterian participants may attend NGO CSW's Consultation Day on the Sunday before CSW. During CSW, participants with grounds passes may attend related side events (high-level panel discussions on UN grounds). All participants may attend parallel events held at venues near the UN as part of the NGO CSW/NY Forum. All events provide opportunities for advocacy, information exchange and networking. ***Because orientation starts the weekend before the commission begins, you will want to arrive in New York on March 10, 2017.*** You do not have to stay for the entire two-week session, though it is encouraged.

Application Information

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

March 13–24, 2017

Application deadline: November 3, 2016

Email completed applications to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations
c/o Ryan Smith (ryan.smith@pcusa.org)

Welcome to the application process for Presbyterian delegation to the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. The Presbyterian presence at the Commission is organized by the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., the Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries Office of the PC(USA), and the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns of the PC(USA).

Planning Team Members

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General Information about the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The Commission has met annually since it was founded in 1946, to ensure women's equality and promote women's rights. Each session of the Commission focuses on a specific priority theme. The principal output of the Commission is the "agreed conclusions" document on the priority theme. The agreed conclusions contain an assessment of progress, as well as of gaps and challenges. They also contain a set of concrete recommendations for "action by governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level." In addition to the agreed conclusions, the Commission may adopt resolutions on a range of issues. The report of the Commission is submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

The 61st Session of the Commission, scheduled for March 13–24, 2017, will focus on the priority theme: "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." The Commission will also review the theme of the 58th Session of CSW, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls," as its review theme. Learn more at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017.

The United Nations invites nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) holding consultative status with ECOSOC to send representatives to the Commission to advocate for the inclusion of their organizations' positions in the Commission's work. Many NGO contributions have been incorporated into the CSW's agreed conclusions and resolutions during past sessions. During the meeting of the Commission, UN Member States and UN programs, agencies and offices, often in partnership with civil society, sponsor side events that address issues related to the themes of the Commission. UN grounds passes are generally needed to attend side events.

General Information about the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY)

The NGO CSW/NY, made up of representatives of approximately 100 organizations, supports the work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women through advocacy for women's rights and the advancement of women and girls worldwide. Every year the NGO CSW/NY organizes the NGO Consultation Day in preparation for the Commission and a Forum that takes place during the Commission. Central to the Form are parallel events sponsored by nongovernmental organizations, often working in partnership. These parallel events take place outside of the official Commission setting, in venues off the UN grounds, where UN grounds passes are not needed, and provide opportunities for advocacy, learning, and networking.

General Information about Ecumenical Women

Ecumenical Women is a coalition of approximately 20 Christian organizations representing more than 100 million Christians worldwide. Ecumenical Women understands that the church, at its best, models policies that reinforce gender equality, creates budgets that reflect a desire to invest in women's equality, and develops networks of women and men who resist systems of patriarchy, domination and abuse. Ecumenical Women believes that the church is a powerful transformative vehicle for the teaching, protection and enforcement of women's rights and gender equality when its constituents and leadership are informed and empowered. Presbyterians join Ecumenical Women in transformative advocacy at the United Nations.

Presbyterian Participation

Access to the official Commission plenary sessions and other events on UN grounds is limited. The PC(USA), because it has consultative status with ECOSOC, receives 20 grounds passes. Because the 2017 delegation will consist of 20 members, all participants in our delegation will be able to attend events on UN grounds.

Goals of PC(USA) Involvement in the Commission and the NGO Forum

1. To advocate, guided by PC(USA) General Assembly policy, with the Commission, with the goal of affecting the agreed conclusions of the Commission;
2. to learn and use advocacy processes and skills within the UN context;
3. to work in partnership with women and men of all ages on women's economic empowerment in a changing world of work, and to review challenges and achievements for women in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals;
4. to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians to demonstrate and proclaim God's justice, peace and love at the Commission and in their local contexts;
5. to expand the inclusive and caring community of women and their supporters; and
6. to build and nurture networks with global partners.

Expectations for Delegates

Members of the PC(USA) delegation represent the PC(USA). The PC(USA) has special consultative status through the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This allows Presbyterians to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women and other UN-related events. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations represents the PC(USA) in the UN community.

The following are expected of delegates:

- **Attendance:** Delegates are expected to attend the PC(USA) and Ecumenical Women orientations, held before the Commission starts, and to participate in at least one week of the Commission. Attendance through the second week of Commission is ideal for advocacy work. Based on the current Commission schedule, the PC(USA) delegation orientation and the Ecumenical Women Orientation will likely take place the weekend before the commission begins; and the Commission will meet from March 13–24, 2017. Many participants report that attending the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/ NY Consultation Day (Sunday, March 12, 2017) enhances the experience.
- **Preparation:** Delegates are expected to have knowledge of issues related to women's empowerment as it links to sustainable development, of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and of the topic and outcomes of CSW58 (see www.unwomen.org). Delegates are expected to read preparatory materials and to participate in preparatory conference calls and/or webinars. Delegates must have reliable access to email as much of our communication will occur via email.

- **Advocacy, Worship, Education and Communication:** Throughout the Commission there will be opportunities to engage in advocacy efforts, to plan and participate in worship services, to attend and lead educational events, and to share these experiences using social media and other communication tools. Delegates are expected to participate in some manner in all four of these—advocacy, worship, education and communication—while at the Commission and the Forum.
- **Participation:** Delegates are expected to work together to enhance our advocacy efforts, and to carry learnings back to their communities.
- **Reporting back while at the Commission:** Delegates are expected to report to the Presbyterian delegation and/or Ecumenical Women on the events in which they participated each day. Delegates are encouraged to use social media to share their experiences with a wider audience; assistance will be provided.
- **Reporting back after the Commission:** Delegates are expected to write a reflection on their experience to share. Delegates are expected to share their experiences at the Commission with the wider church—including, but not limited to, Presbyterian Women groups, their congregation, other congregations, and their presbytery and synod.
- **Use of contact information:** Members of the Presbyterian delegation give permission to the programs and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc. to use their contact information within the church for purposes of fundraising and information sharing.

Tentative Schedule of Events

NOTE: All dates are currently tentative. Additional events may be scheduled.

PC(USA) Delegation Orientation: The PC(USA) delegation's orientation will be *either Friday evening, March 10, 2017*, time and location TBA, or **Saturday, March 11**, during EW orientation (see below). Details will be shared as they are available. During this mandatory orientation, members of the PC(USA) delegation will have a chance to get to know one another as well as to become acquainted with UN processes and with the opportunities to be involved in advocacy, worship, and education while at the Commission. Dinner will be as a group at a local restaurant, location to be determined.

Ecumenical Women (EW) Orientation, Saturday, March 11, 2017, time and cost TBA

The EW orientation, mandatory for members of the PC(USA) delegation, will focus on how and why we advocate as people of faith within the UN Community. The day will involve a discussion of key talking points for EW, a network of faith-based NGOs at the United Nations. This event is an excellent networking opportunity with member denominations and organizations of EW. The PC(USA) is an EW member and Presbyterian Women is an EW friend. Learn more at www.ecumenicalwomen.org.

NGO CSW/NY Consultation Day, Sunday, March 12, 2017, time and cost TBA

This day offers women's groups and other civil society organizations a preview of key issues that will be discussed at the Commission. This consultation provides an opportunity to hear from and meet representatives from NGOs beyond the faith community. Note: The scholarship for young women does not include funds for Consultation Day.

61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women begins Monday, March 13, 2017 (Commission events and side events). **The NGO CSW/NY Forum** (parallel events) **begins the same day.**

More detailed information on programming and scheduling for all events will follow. The United Nations system can move slowly; information will be shared as it becomes available.

Application Process

To apply to be part of the PC(USA) delegation to the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the NGO CSW/NY Forum, please complete the attached application by **November 3, 2016** and return it to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (ryan.smith@pcusa.org). Acceptance notices will be sent out by **November 17, 2016**. You will confirm your participation by sending your \$45.00 check to cover cost of the

Ecumenical Women Orientation to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations by **December 1, 2015**. Checks will be made payable to **Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations** and mailed to: Ryan Smith, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

Individuals selected as delegates must have knowledge of, and experience with, the issues addressed by the 61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, efforts will be made to select a delegation that reflects the diversity of the PC(USA) including age, race, ethnicity, ordination status, geographical distribution, and gender.

All delegates are responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements. You will be provided with a list of other delegates and area hotels and should feel free to contact others to share hotel expenses.

For more information, direct emails to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, at ryan.smith@pcusa.org. Responses will come from a member of the team coordinating the PC(USA) participation at the CSW.

Scholarship Information

- The Office of Young Women's Ministries has one-week scholarships available for young women ages 18–35. An application is attached. For more information, contact Jewel McRae at 888.728.7228, ext. 5848, or jewel.macrae@pcusa.org.
- Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may have some Leadership Development Grants available. For more information on grant availability and criteria, contact Presbyterian Women's Financial Office at 844.797.2872, ext. 5596, **after September 22, 2016**.

What might I do during the Commission on the Status of Women and the NGO CSW/NY Forum?

Each day begins with morning worship in the Chapel at the Church Center for the United Nations, organized by Ecumenical Women. Every day at the Commission brings unique opportunities that may include:

- coordinating with fellow delegates concerning which events each is attending, in order to cover more ground;
- working with Ecumenical Women partners on suggested language for the Agreed Conclusions and sharing that language with representatives of the UN Member States;
- attending parallel or side events and sharing notes about what you learn;
- writing daily blog posts on your experience;
- viewing the plenary sessions of the Commission via Webcast shown in the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN office;
- interacting with an intergenerational group of Presbyterians and ecumenical partners;
- sharing your photos and impressions with communications staff of PW and Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations;
- engaging in conversations with women (and men) from other countries, denominations and faith traditions;
- debriefing your experience with friends, long-time and new;
- posting on Facebook about the day's events;
- writing a brief article for *Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women, about your experience;
- beginning plans for action when you return home;
- and more!

Application for Membership in the PC(USA) Delegation
for the 61st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Forum
March 13–24, 2017

Deadline for Application: November 3, 2016
Email completed applications to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations
c/o Ryan Smith, UN representative (ryan.smith@pcusa.org)

Name as it appears on a government-issued ID:			
Address:			
Street:	City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
Congregation:			
Presbytery:			
Synod:			
What are your PC(USA) affiliations (e.g., Presbyterian Women, Young Women’s Ministries, Presbyterian Men, Hunger, Peacemaking, Campus Ministry, PC(USA) staff etc.)?			

- **Describe your involvement and interest in women’s issues and the work of the United Nations.**
- **This year’s Commission focuses on women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work. What do you know about global and national efforts to empower women? What experience, if any, do you have in women’s advocacy work?**
- **Which challenges and conditions have most affected the women and girls in your community over the last ten years? What evidence do you see that women’s empowerment is still a pressing issue?**
- **What do you want leaders at the United Nations to know and do in the future about enhancing development opportunities for women and girls?**
- **What do you hope to gain from your experience as a PC(USA) delegate and what will you do with that experience?**
- **The days can be long and physically, emotionally and spiritually challenging because of the distances between events, the absence of elevators in some buildings, and the content that is addressed. Will you be able to meet these challenges? Yes No Comments:**
- **Find attached an application for a scholarship for young women, ages 18–35, through Young Women’s Ministries. For more information on the young women’s grant, contact Jewel McRae at jewel.mcrae@pcusa.org or 800.569.5848.**

You will be notified by **November 17, 2016**, whether you have been selected to be a member of the PC(USA) delegation to the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Confirm your participation by mailing your \$45.00 check to cover cost of the mandatory Ecumenical Women Orientation, payable to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, to: Ryan Smith, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017 by **December 1, 2016**.

Racial Ethnic & Women's
Ministries



Events Scholarship Application

Please submit both sides of the scholarship application 8-10 weeks prior to the specific event.

Please indicate the office to which you are applying: (Please indicate only one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	African American Intercultural Congregational Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Eastern Intercultural Ministries
<input type="checkbox"/>	African Intercultural Ministries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native American Intercultural Congregational Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Intercultural Congregational Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Portuguese-Language Intercultural Congregational Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender & Racial Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Racial Ethnic Leadership Development & Recruitment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic / Latino-a Intercultural Congregational Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women's Leadership Development & Young Women's Ministries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Korean Intercultural Congregational Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Today's Date _____

Is this your first time requesting a PC(USA) Scholarship: Yes _____ No _____

If no, please list date(s)/year(s) a scholarship was received _____ and amount(s) awarded \$ _____

This scholarship will be matched with funds from: Church _____ Presbytery _____ Synod _____
Personal Funds _____ Other Organization _____

Name: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Address: _____
City State Zip

Phone number(s): _____
Home Work Cell

Please indicate (circle) which phone number you prefer.

Email: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____

Home Church: _____ Presbytery: _____ Synod: _____

Occupation: _____

Are you a(n) (please check): Ordained PC(USA) minister _____ Ordained ruling elder _____ Young adult _____

Youth _____ Commissioned ruling elder _____ Deacon _____ Leader _____

Event information

This scholarship is being requested for the following event: Commission on the Status of Women

Date of Event: March 10–17, 2017

What do you hope to learn/gain from this event?

Cost of event:

Registration \$ _____

Housing & Food \$ _____

Travel \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Personal statement:

Please answer the following five statements on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. Why do you want to attend this event? _____
- 2. Why are you seeking this scholarship? _____
- 3. How much is your church providing toward this event? _____
- 4. How much is your presbytery providing? _____
- 5. Other scholarship amounts? _____

***The Presbyterian Mission Agency cannot assure future funding beyond this scholarship, due to decline in funds available.**

****If the scholarship is granted, you will be required to submit a written report in detail of what you learned and what you experienced by attending this event. By signing below, you agree to this requirement. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will be ineligible for future funding.**

BY SIGNING THIS FORM I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT.

Signature: _____ Date: _____