

Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

REAC shall be a prophetic voice for involving people of color in the formation of public policy, particularly where race is a factor that negatively impacts the quality of life of people of color. The committee will also monitor the implementation of policies adopted by the church that impact the quality of life of people of color in the church and in the world" (Organization for Mission, VI.1).

The General Assembly Racial Equity Advocacy Committee advocates and monitors social justice issues for people of color groups within all programs, ministries, congregations, and mid councils in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and society. REAC seeks to develop the full involvement of all people of color cultural groups in the formation of public policy within the church to the benefit of all equally regardless of race, ethnicity, or social status.

REAC reports to the General Assembly, and to the General Assembly through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. REAC works closely and liaisons with the General Assembly Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns (ACWC), the General Assembly Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP), the General Assembly Committee on Representation, and Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI). REAC strives to articulate and promote a strong prophetic voice for justice for the church in particular people of color. The committee has access to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board and the General Assembly directly by means of reports, resolutions, and advice and counsel.

REAC's Primary Functions:

1. The committee is an advocate within the denomination maintaining an active witness for social justice in the church. REAC may address issues, dynamics, and practices in the church and in society that significantly impacts the quality of life, rights, and dignity of people of color groups in areas as civil rights, housing, employment, healthcare, public education, affirmative action, environmental racism, economic justice, criminal justice and immigration policy.
2. REAC strives to identify and challenge practices that adversely affect the quality of life and restrict full participation of people of color groups in the life of the church and society.

3. The committee recommends to the General Assembly new policy and timely revisions to existing policies and monitors the implementation of policies adopted by the church.

Committee Composition:

The committee is composed of twelve (12) members eligible to serve one (1) or two (2) four (4) year terms.

REAC membership includes two (2) members from each people of color constituency one nominated by the General Assembly and one selected by each of the five (5) people of color caucuses/council/committee (African American, Asian American, Hispanic – Latino-a American, Middle Eastern American, and Native American) who shall also be nominated by the General Assembly Nominating Committee and elected by the General Assembly.

The committee meets three (3) to (4) times annually in addition to teleconferences as needed.