

**ITEM D.200
FOR INFORMATION**

Subject: Presbyterian Mission Translation

At the September 21-23, 2017, meeting, the Board issued the following request:

Request the PMA to conduct a study on what it would take to expand (whether using inside resources or outsourcing) translation services into languages in addition to Spanish and Korean, as determined by the study suggested by GACOR in Item I.208, and report back to the PMAB by September 2018. (In reference to 2016 Referral: Item 11-24, Recommendation 1.f.)

Response:

In response to the Board's request, we asked Research Services to conduct a study to determine which languages are spoken most prevalently in the communities served by congregations and mid councils. Research Services recommended that they contact the same clerks of sessions who complete the Stated Clerk's Annual Questionnaire. They did so, got a strong response, and reported their findings in February 2018 in the document which is appended: "Languages and Translations Report Jeffrey Lawrence February 2018.pptx" (a PowerPoint presentation).

The PMA Leadership Cabinet (LC) reviewed these findings and was concerned that the study was not expansive enough, since people of color and marginalized communities were not intentionally included. The LC therefore felt that the results were skewed and not reflective of the true language needs of the church. The LC proposed that we follow up with another study.

Simultaneously, it was becoming clear that the Way Forward Commission was preparing to recommend that General Assembly 223 move the PC(USA)'s translation services office from the PMA Communications ministry office to a new Global Resources area within the A Corporation. Accordingly, action on the LC proposal was tabled.

At this juncture, we recommend that the Board pass along the existing study to the Global Resources office of the A Corporation when it is formally constituted, with a further offer of assistance from PMA Communications if they need it.

Languages and Translations

This report has been
prepared for:
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Research Services

February 6, 2018

LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATIONS SURVEY PROCESS

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) produces materials in English, Spanish, and Korean for use in the United States. However, the Church engages individuals who speak other languages. The purpose of this survey is two fold:

1. Identify languages other than English, Spanish, and Korean that are spoken in the local congregation, its community, or presbytery
2. Determine if it would be helpful to have Presbyterian materials produced in additional languages.

The survey was sent to 9077 Clerks of Session and mid council leadership for whom Research Services had an email address on file; 25% of these responded.

The American Community Survey 2016 (U.S. Census Bureau) lists the 32 most commonly spoken languages in the United States. After removing English, Spanish, and Korean from the list, respondents were asked to select from the remaining languages, as well as to identify other languages that were not on the list.

Thirteen respondents commented that they are located in densely populated urban areas and that most of the languages are spoken in their area.



FINDINGS

- Chinese, Vietnamese, and Arabic were the top three languages identified in the survey as languages other than English, Spanish, or Korean that are spoken within the congregation, near the local church, or in the presbytery.
- The American Community Survey 2016 (U. S. Census Bureau) reports that Chinese, Vietnamese, and Arabic are the **only** languages spoken in the homes of 6.1 million households.
- Approximately one third of the respondents do not think that it would be useful to have materials produced in languages other than the three current languages; English, Spanish, and Korean.
- Questions concerning the cost of producing other materials were not included in the survey. However, respondents voiced their concerns about the cost of producing materials in additional languages beyond what is currently produced. Some respondents suggested making the materials available online with a print on demand option for containing costs.
- Some respondents commented that PC(USA) materials should be available only in English or the three current languages (English, Spanish, and Korean).
- Devotionals and Bible study guides would be the two most useful items to be produced in other languages.



THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY(ACS) 2016

The American Community Survey identifies languages that are spoken in the U.S. and the number of households where only one language is spoken. English is the only language spoken in 237.8 million households. There are 40.5 million Spanish only households and 1.1 million Korean only households.

The ACS 2016 ranks English as the most predominant language spoken in the United States followed by Spanish with Korean being eighth. These three languages are not included in the following table as the focus of this research is to identify languages other than these three that are spoken in congregations, in their communities, or in their presbyteries.

The following three slides compare the PC(USA) response to the ACS 2016.

PC(USA) 2018 LANGUAGES SURVEY COMPARED TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY(ACS) 2016

Slide 1 of 3

PC(USA) Ranking	PC(USA) 2018	PC(USA) Responses	ACS Ranking	American Community Survey 2016
1	Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)	176	3	Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) – 3.4 million
2	Vietnamese	111	5	Vietnamese – 1.5 million
3	Arabic	110	6	Arabic – 1.2 million
4	French	83	7	French – 1.2 million
5	Japanese	74	17	Japanese – 0.46 million
6	German	70	10	German – 0.91 million
7	Russian	69	8	Russian – 0.91 million
8	Hindi	49	12	Hindi – 0.81 million
9	Tagalog	46	4	Tagalog (including Filipino) – 1.7 million
10	Serbo-Croatian (Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian)	41	24	Serbo-Croatian (including Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian) – 0.24 million

PCUSA 2018 LANGUAGES SURVEY COMPARED TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY(ACS) 2016 (CONTINUED)

Slide 2 of 3

PC(USA) Ranking	PC(USA) 2018	PC(USA) Responses	ACS Ranking	American Community Survey 2016
11	Hmong	37	29	Hmong – 0.22 million
12	Italian	36	14	Italian – 0.58 million
13	Portuguese	34	13	Portuguese – 0.77 million
14	Persian	30	n/a	Not listed on the ACS
15	Hebrew	29	28	Hebrew – 0.23 million
16	Bantu (including Swahili)	26	30	Bantu (including Swahili) – 0.22 million
17	Polish	26	15	Polish – 0.54 million
18	Haitian Creole	25	11	Haitian Creole – 0.86 million
19	Greek	24	23	Greek – 0.29 million
20	Armenian	23	26	Armenian – 0.24 million

PC(USA) 2018 LANGUAGES SURVEY COMPARED TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY(ACS) 2016 (CONTINUED)

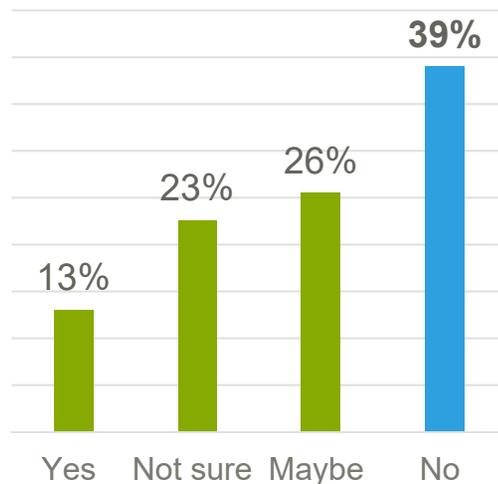
Slide 3 of 3

PC(USA) Ranking	PC(USA) 2018	PC(USA) Responses	ACS Ranking	American Community Survey 2016
21	Urdu	23	16	Urdu – 0.47 million
22	Punjabi	17	24	Punjabi – 0.29 million
23	Navajo	9	32	Navajo – 0.16 million
24	Bengali	8	21	Bengali – 0.32 million
25	Gujarati	5	19	Gujarati – 0.41 million
26	Khmer	3	31	Khmer – 0.20 million
27	Tamil	3	25	Tamil – 0.27 million
28	Telugu	3	20	Telugu – 0.37 million
29	Tai-Kadai	2	22	Tai-Kadai (including (Thai and Lao) – 31 million

PRODUCING MATERIALS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Respondents were asked if it would be helpful to have PC(USA) materials produced in languages other than English, Spanish, and Korean. More than one third (39%) responded it would **not be useful** to have materials other languages. Comments written by 303 of the respondents supported producing materials in other languages even though they did not see a need in their congregation or community. Respondents identified **twenty-two additional languages** that are spoken in their church, community or presbytery beyond those that were listed in the survey.

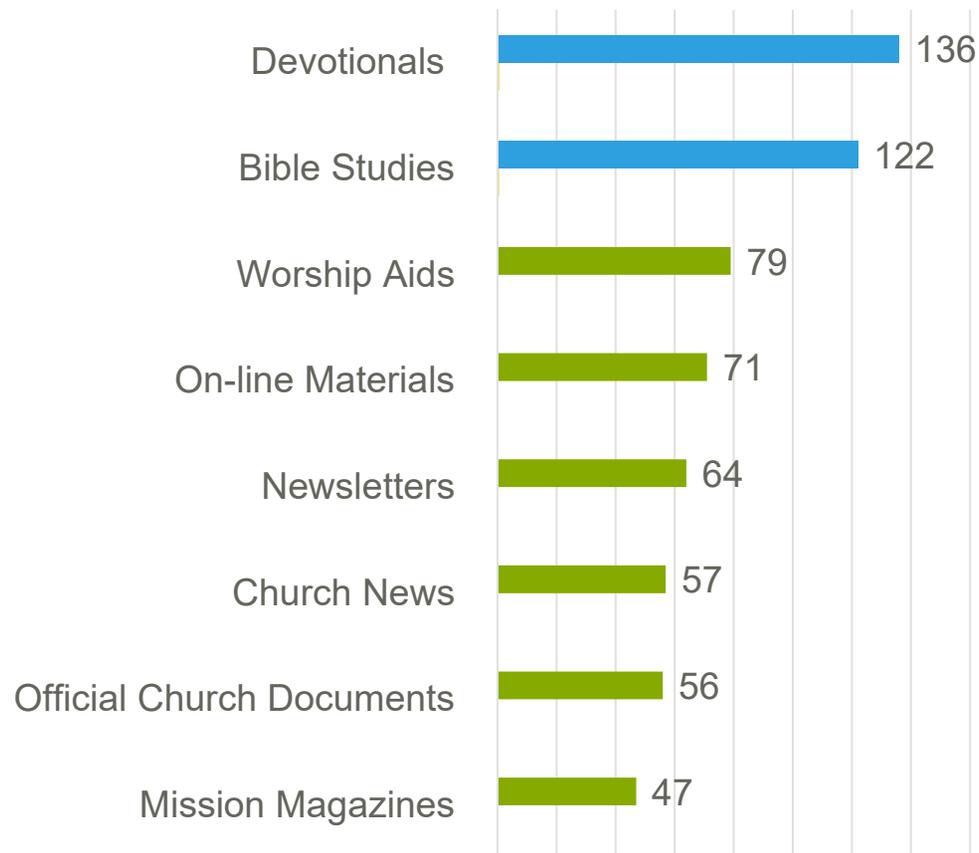
Would it be helpful to have materials produced in these languages?



- *I think this a good idea to produce materials in other languages to reach out to the world whatever language is spoken.*
- *I applaud the PCUSA's attention to and producing of materials in various languages. If the need and opportunity are there, it is very appropriate to do this. Thank you*
- *No other languages need to be produced. The big 3 should help everyone. We don't need the time and expense to expand to other languages.*
- *Good idea for churches that serve people who are more comfortable with other languages.*
- *Personally feel would be most cost effective to do on a per needs basis*

WHICH MATERIALS SHOULD BE PRODUCED

The survey provided eight types of materials that are currently produced in English, Spanish, and Korean. Respondents were asked to select all the materials that they would find useful if translated into other languages. As the list was not an exhaustive list; respondents were encouraged to list other materials that were not included in the list. In total, 651 items were selected by 227 respondents.



Other suggestions:

- *Book of Order*
- *Book of Confession*
- Videos with closed captioning for those church members who are deaf
- *“Church training - how does the PCUSA work”*

CONTACTS



Contact information for Clerks of Session, pastors, and presbytery staff who are willing to be contacted about producing materials in languages other than English, Spanish, and Korean is found in a separate Excel file.

The file also contains a separate worksheet with all comments from respondents. This comments are anonymous; no identifying information is provided.