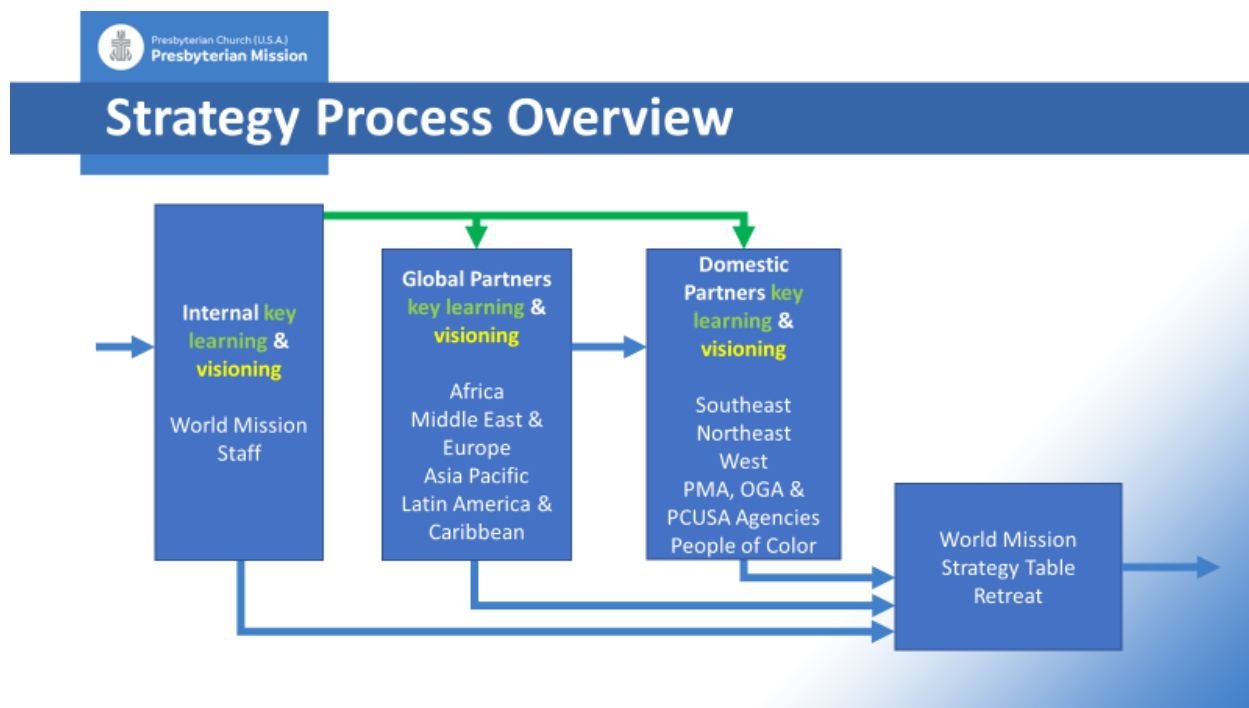


## ITEM G.206 FOR INFORMATION

### World Mission Strategy Process Update

Since the last Board Meeting World Mission has completed the consultative phases of its strategy process as presented to the Board in March. As completed the process looked like this, with World Mission's key learning being shared with each consultation, and an overview of the outputs from the global consultations being shared with the domestic consultations.



Over 300 pages of notes from the table group discussions held at each consultation (all of which followed the same process) were analyzed by Research Services to produce a report identifying key themes and questions for further reflection. All of this material was then the subject of a retreat attended by World Mission Directors and Coordinators, Anisha Hackney (HR), Kathy Melvin (Communications) and Diane Moffett (PMA Executive Director), facilitated by Ed Cortas (Center for Non-Profit Excellence) who has been accompanying World Mission throughout the process.

With so much material, as had become clear during the process, the result was not going to be a strategy as conventionally understood. What emerged were some key themes that needed exploring further:

- Missiology
- Partnership and Mutuality
- Colonialism and its impacts past and present
- Matthew 25 vision and our global engagement

- Content of World Mission's work
- Acquisition and use of resources

While there had been significant missiological input to all the consultations, there had not been the time to deeply engage with the material and get to grips with such emerging concepts as 'transformative mission' and 'mission from the margins'. Both ideas and other ideas emerging from the process suggest that we need to embrace a paradigm shift in how we approach mission and our global partnerships.

Mutuality was lifted by all the global consultations as the form of partnership that we should be striving for, but what might this look like in practice? Because of resource and power differentials this is easier said than done, and by its very nature needs to be worked out with our partners. It also needs to be considered in the context of the next key theme.

Colonialism and its impacts past and present are the baggage we carry we with us, affecting our conversations and relationships in ways that undermine our attempts to nurture healthy partnerships. We need to face this and acknowledge how it continues to manifest itself not only in our international partnerships, but also in our relationships with peoples of color and migrant communities in the USA. This is heart and center of the work we need to do to overcome systemic racism both in the church and in the world.

Many questions were raised about the Matthew 25 vision and where it might lead the PCUSA, particularly in its global engagement. This need addressing so that the frame of reference for our working with Matthew 25 is larger than the USA and does not fall into the paternalistic/colonialistic 'least of these' trap. Mission understood as being the transformative work of God places (in this passage) those who are hungry, poor, and are strangers as the agents of God's action in the world. What are the implications of this for how we both work and understand ourselves?

Only in the light of digging deeper into these themes can we begin to think about the content and methods of World Mission's work. Alongside that as we go deeper in our explorations there will be questions around how we acquire and use resources. So, there is more work to do, and more intentional, focused conversations to have. It may not be a strategy as conventionally understood, but it is a program of work that we need to attend to going forward: Exploring with our global partners and domestically how God is leading us to witness to God's love and justice in these times and building each other up to that end.

Philip Woods  
Associate Director, Strategy, Program and Recruitment  
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