

ITEM F.102
FOR ACTION

FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S OFFICE USE ONLY			
A. Resource Allocation & Stewardship		D. Coordinating Committee	G. Outreach to the World
B. Personnel & Nominating		E. Mid-Councils	H. Ministerial Teams
C. Property/Legal	x	F. Nurture the Body	P. Plenary
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – TO BE COMPLETED BY SUBMITTING OFFICE			
COST (explain in the Rationale section):			
Within Per Capita Budget _____		Within Mission Budget <u>X</u>	New Funds _____

Subject: 2021 Sam & Helen R. Walton Award

Recommendation: That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board receive and approve the following two new worshipping communities as the 2021 Sam & Helen R. Walton Award recipients, which were selected and recommended by the Mission Development Resources Committee (MDRC) at its March 9, 2021 meeting to receive a one-time award.

- The Open Table, Heartland Presbytery, Synod of Mid-America, \$30,000

The Open Table is a six-year-old Christian dinner church that seeks to be a community of peace and liberation in Kansas City. They believe in a community where everyone belongs, a city where all have the power to pursue their dreams and ambitions, and a people who are committed to each other’s liberation until all are at the table together. The Open Table creates space for hospitality, conversation, peace, and reconciliation, and they root their theology in contemplation and liberation.

In 2015, The Open Table started with just 12 people in attendance. Their largest gathering to date has been 170, and their average attendance continues to climb. In late 2018, The Open Table launched an Antiracism Training business to provide a community service in line with their mission and to help sustain The Open Table church. As of today, they have trained over 60 organizations reaching more than 6,000 people. In 2020, they developed and piloted a discipleship curriculum that is forming a people who are grounded in both contemplation and action.

The Open Table will use the Walton award to renovate the sanctuary space to make it more conducive to both live stream and hybrid environments, renovate the former sound booth area to create a hospitality area to make the sanctuary space more appealing and purchase

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audio/video/lighting equipment. This will provide maximum flexibility as they host live stream events like vigils after acts of violence have been committed, drive-up services and Sunday gatherings that are more intimate, and virtual antiracism trainings.

- Ormewood Church, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Synod of South Atlantic, \$20,000

Ormewood is located in the Ormewood Park area of Atlanta, Georgia. This community is connectional, resourceful, and missional. This community began with an empty building, the result of Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church closing in 2016. After much conversation and discernment with presbytery, it was decided that a new church development should use the space. To residents of Ormewood Park and surrounding areas, this property is not only a building, but also a place where they cast their votes, where neighbors gather to visit while their children play on the playground. Some of the children attend school at the on-site pre-school and ride their bikes in the parking lot. Over time, the property became sacred space to the community members, whether they attended worship or not. The funds will be used to make key renovations in the sanctuary, such as removing aging pews, replacing the floors, and updating the electrical system.

Rationale: In late December 1991, Sam and Helen R. Walton made a generous gift through the Presbyterian Foundation of \$6 million, which included \$3 million to be used for new worshiping communities.

MDRC, an elected body of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, offers an opportunity annually to nominate new worshiping communities that are working in creative ways to bring the gospel to their local communities. The number of projects nominated annually is based in-part on amount of funding available.

Notes on Financial Implication: The funding for these awards is assigned to the Office of Mission Program Grants' 2021 Budget. Specifically, the payments will be supported with F57607, Sam & Helen R. Walton Fund.