

## Presbyterian Mission Agency Social Media Community Guidelines

We use social media at the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to share stories, news and giving opportunities from congregations, mid councils and ministries that invite discussion and raise awareness about our mission and ministry. We hope that social media will inspire, inform and challenge our congregations to think beyond the confines of their churches and communities and help them experience being part of a connectional church.

As the use of social media continues to grow, we are attracting diverse users with many different viewpoints. Readers do not always agree with one another. Nevertheless, at all times we expect users to engage respectfully with one another in accordance with our standards and the guidelines outlined here.

### Social media standards

PMA social media channels provide a free forum for a broad range of topics. Sometimes, discussions may deal with subjects that are controversial. Even when posts incite strong feelings, we insist that users always engage in respectful dialogue despite any disagreement. We will not tolerate any form of harassing behavior, including insulting, obscene or profane language or any other communication found to be intimidating, hostile, abusive or offensive. Some examples include:

- Commenting that someone is not a “true” or “real” Christian/Presbyterian.
- Calling someone a “troll” or another pejorative for having a dissenting viewpoint.
- Making comments that denigrate entire groups of people. This includes “you” comments — such as “you people or “you gays” or “you blacks” or “you Asians.”
- Making comments that personally attack or bully the writer of an article posted or other nonpublic figures mentioned in a post.

We do not want to discourage conversation or debate, even when users disagree with each other or even with General Assembly pronouncements — as long as users remain civil and respectful towards each other.

Repeated violation of these standards may result in a permanent or temporary ban from the social media platform in question. Banning users is at the discretion of the social media strategist of the PMA, as well as the social media managers of the PMA.

Our ultimate goal is to cultivate social media communities in which people from all countries and all contexts can engage on a variety of topics of interest, without fear of insults or other personal attacks. Cultivating this sort of community takes ongoing work. If you’d like to submit feedback on these guidelines, you may to [social@pcusa.org](mailto:social@pcusa.org).