
Other - Write In:What was missing from your training that could have better prepared you to serve your committee? Select all that apply.

More communications from the Leadership Team

Much less time training. It was not respectful of my time to go over such a simple and effective system in such detail. Next time, please allow commissioners to self select the training g that is appropriate for them.

I was not informed about the daily schedule for plenary.

I was on the standing rules committee but did not even know what the standing rules were or how to find them. It would have been very helpful to have had some committee specific training (or even a welcome to our work email) - meet our moderator and co-moderator, have a preview of business, be directed as to where to find pertinent documents, etc. it was all good in the end but it caused a level of anxiety and stress that was

I was well prepared. Committee chair made multiple efforts to have people meet online before coming to Louisville and arranged for a meetup the night before our first in-person meeting.

More background information or links to resources with information on the items of business.

needed more dry runs with PC Biz

More practice with how to use Pc-Biz website with confidence

More specific instructions on using the Parliamentary toolbox.

Nothing

An easier way to access the materials offline at times during travel when there was time to read, but difficult to Better explanation of what information to really focus on because all of the training and information to review I felt prepared.

I was not informed about online pre-committee meetings until very late. By then I had travel reservations. When I said I would be available for the full time, I did not know about these meetings so I missed the first two. Thus, I never had any time to actually become acquainted with the members of my committee.

I felt prepared and that we did good work

I was well prepared.

more instruction on how to make a motion

Material was provided but the on-line format was difficult to use, navigate and understand significance

I think most committee members felt ill-prepared for the detailed attention to Robert's RuÅ±es. We had several people who were gifted at crafting motions, amendments, etc., but it is kind of intimidating, especially if there is a looser adherence to RR at lower levels of the church.

training was excellent

a document to reference all acronyms used for committees, councils, young adults, etc.es

nothing else

N/A

Just prior experience.

help with prioritization

I would have valued previewing the Tutorial - How the PCUSA Engages Internationally prior to the start of our all was sufficient. almost redundant.

More practice of how navigator parliamentary screen in PC-BIZ

understanding "real-time" use of parliamentary toolbox

nothing seemed missing

Nothing

More time practicing navigating PC Biz. More hands on practice.

Computer connectivity

NA

Better description of time involved

Better explanation of how business breaks down in PC Biz

Profile of leaders who were involved in controversial issues, such as Israel and Palestine. To verify equity and we did not know the Financial Implications on one of our IOBs had changed SUBSTANTIALLY

Nothing

Better informed Committee Moderators

nothing

I felt the training was adequate.

in person synod training like was done in 2018

I think it would be helpful in the training to remind commissioners that on some issues, committees/task forces have worked for years to get the language right. We spent a lot of time trying to "reinvent the wheel." Questions are always welcome, but we also MUST have faith in those who spent their valuable time and prayers working

More information on the overture process earlier on. More information about the plenaries - the schedule, the agenda, limitations on debate, etc.

I feel that I was prepared

None

More of an orientation to the purpose and work of the committee I served

Nothing

A brief summary of the top 10-12 priority Items of Business across all committees would be helpful. Mostly I studied what was to come before my committee. Exposure to top issues under consideration of other

It would have been nice to watch a recorded plenary with commentary about voting and motion options for seeking recognition. This would have helped my learning style see how all the pieces come together in the actual n/a- in some ways you just have to go through the experience once to get the training you need

Experience. You folks did great with 1st timers, but GA is not a simple process.

practice with the system around amendments and making motions

More time using SessionSync

clearer instructions on how to deal with the in person committee meetings

More training on most effective ways to get things done; e.g., creating a new overture vs attempting to amend someone else's overture, etc.

My committee moderator(s) did an excellent job arranging for building community prior to and during our time in Louisville. The experience was one that would have been easier if I had done it before, especially on the technological end. Perhaps we could have had more time with trainers, but I think it would have been hard to

More information on how to find reliable relevant resources

I was well prepared

Being new to all this if all the information came to me or was in one place it would of been easier to navigate all I more depth of information concerning overtures, recommendations and actions before the GA

Training was sufficient.

step by step directions that could be reviewed outside of training so follow up could occur in a formal way.

A way to print the agenda items without all the rationales, etc, that would require 10 or more pages. I didn't print anything after the first attempt and so I always felt behind in the meetings. Also, the voting page kept refreshing so I could not always read the overture we were voting on while we were discussing it.

Nothing

Essentially ZERO support or preparation from our committee leaders prior to arrival

Given the unique circumstances, I think the best environment was created for an effective outcome.

Responsibilities/scope of committee (FIN)

Mock sessions

Hands on training. The parliamentarian toolbox was a challenge. Slowed down committee work significantly: caused frustration; etc. if it will be used in person during committee meetings again, more hands on "mock" in an extra day

Nothing was missing

specific training on best practices to submit/edit motions through PC-Biz. A lot of our time in committee was taken up by trying to get the text formatted correctly when the meaning was clear in the room

Todo el material desde el inicio, se ofreci3a material en etapas. Las etapas y la informaci3n fueron muy cortas, y se solicitaba respuestas en poco tiempo. Debe solicitarse todo desde el inicio con fechas a cumplir.

More help to decipher the technology

I received enough training with all online training offered and support from the synod and the Presbytery

More informal interaction

The flow of the docket

Clearer directions on where to find items. Going back and forth was very confusing, as was trying to find the

Prior discussions with other committee members

I thought the training was thorough.

opportunity to discuss with committee

how to run pc-biz as a moderator

a 'printable' guide to the TECH steps of making motions and amendments would be helpful

N/A

development of patience toward those who move at different paces

I would have liked to have known about minority reports before the second day of voting on Committee work

more information on how the process plays out in real time

Email reminders of new training materials and progress of training.

more realistic practice training

Learn how to find sources outside of PC-Biz OpenSync

Overview of the daily process, what to expect in committee meetings and in plenary. The flow of events and what to expect. It's obvious now that I have participated but I did not know what to expect when I arrived.

More training specifically with how PCBiz worked, and who would be working "behind the scenes" and how, so I would know better what to expect from the process.

A summary of the items of business each committee was addressing

I felt training was (overwhelmingly!) complete.

Access to a printed guide of how to function in PC-Biz and where to find things on the General Assembly site.

nothing was missing

I did not find the checklist of each of the online training parts/requirements until I had finished the online training. Having that first would have made the trainings feel less abstract random

As a first time commissioner, the training was overwhelming. An overview (and how to actually "show" completion of all the components would also be helpful.

Todo estuvo bien

Clear directions on website(s)

In-person training

None

Nothing, really

I felt well prepared for General Assembly prior to my arrival in Louisville.

None

I felt that I was adequately trained.

nothing

I think the training was good. I did not expect any training from Synod

Community Building

more time in person with other commissioners

schedule was confusing

I feel that I was well-prepared following PC Biz and the training that was offered on how to use the voting panel, amount of time to truly research and understand the depth of the committee work in advance.

Discovered online trainings later than I would have liked.

More info re: parliamentary procedures

I was a substitute Commissioner, so I had a tight learning curve.

There was so much material that it was difficult to find/focus on the items that were most pertinent to my area

How to prioritize all of the reading.

To be notified that most likely we would not get time to speak on issues.

Overview of the process

Better description of expectations re: what we were to have read and reviewed - both for our committee work and for OGA plenary work.

How to use the available laptops at GA. Being made aware that the device needed my sign-on, password, etc. I knew this but could not apply the knowledge.

A practice session simulating a committee work session requiring me to move around in PC Biz to prepare amendments. PC Biz is amazing, but it is NOT necessarily intuitive! .

Nothing - well done

Knowing exactly where to find the resources on the GA website.

training was sufficient

I didn't feel anything was missing.

What information or resources, if any, do you wish you had?

There was too much info to possibly get through all of it before GA.

Information about what the committee was responsible for and specific topics to be dealt with would have been I was prepared and comfortable.

May be a brief explanation of committee responsibilities would have been helpful-not just for what we served on but an overview for commissioners and advisory delegates of what each committee will be covering and why A training specifically for first time commissioners would have been helpful.

I wish I had the email explaining what to do when we got to Louisville earlier.

I wish I had prior knowledge about the daily schedule. It was challenging to block off more than 12 hours per day. No training prepared me for such a long stretch of the daily schedule. Streamlining plenary sessions would A copy of the standing rules.

Everything I needed was there.

None

Reminders to check updates of IOBs, including Financial Implications and Advice and Comments, and GA committee actions. Practice on writing and submitting motions, and seeking recognition through the About browsers that would "work" and those that wouldn't. More practice with split screen. How to do it quickly I don't know if it would have been possible for me to get a better handle on the GA responsibilities without actually experiencing being both a commissioner and a corresponding member. Experience for me is the best I felt kind of lost at times not sure what I was supposed to be doing. In the pre training, I wasn't sure how many things I was supposed to be watching and then it wouldn't say I completed it.

More committee and national church knowledge

Make agendas and dockets for each day's business easier to find

Advice to bring noise-cancelling headphones for the committee meetings, where we could hear the original voice and later the words through our earphones. That had to be very disconcerting for those receiving

Better assistance in clarifying registration, lodging and travel requirements. I sent a lot of emails that went

More resources on how GA Business was to be discussed.

More info. prior to leaving for Louisville about precisely where my committee was meeting.

I subscribed to Presbyterian Outlook and think that would be a resource to provide for all commissioners to become familiar with general issues that GA will be addressing.

More familiarity about using PCbiz files, particularly navigation in it. Maybe a few practice runs.

A complete schedule of my responsibilities, from start to finish.

Had what I needed

Partnering with someone who had been to General Assembly before to ask questions about how to prepare especially for the plenary sessions. As a first time commissioner, I sometimes felt unsure of myself and how to interact. As an introvert, I have a harder time making connections to ask these questions.

A general overview/ summary of the IOBs we were going to be discussing. Trying to remember which iobs were which was difficult and a summary sheet that had which groups were involved/ are impacted in laymens terms

I had information about the General Assembly requirements.

Nothing really. This was my first GA as a commissioner and I had an overwhelming amount of resources and my Presbytery and OGA offered great support.

Many of the IOB were without background other than the provided rationale. Implications and prior histories For myself, nothing. I felt very well informed ahead of time. The only note is, it would've been nice to have each committee's IOB as a single PDF to be easier to download and read outside of pc-biz.

Missing the Family Leave Task force report for the presentation pin HCB committee really hurt the process of us

I served on the Racial and Gender Justice Committee and we NEVER had ANY time to discuss in small groups with each other. Given that all of the meetings were livestreamed, this meant that much of the interaction was performative. The two times we met in "executive" session without cameras were used by the moderators to make sure we understood their perspectives. The first was a simulation game on the history of the racial wealth gap. Since I teach this in a college class, I was already well aware. The exercise was not well designed, so we began our time together aware of what we were expected to think. On the last day we went into executive session again. I was hopeful that we would have time to talk to each other. Instead, we were lectured by the moderators and the staff that we had been racist and disrespectful to the them. I could visibly see people either shut down or look very guilty. I was puzzled exactly what behaviors they were alluding to, but when someone asked the only specific answer was "heavy sighing". I thought back about my own behavior and realized that I had definitely sighed, but that it was due to the amount of time spent sitting and being lectured to. In the end, most of our votes were nearly unanimous. I do not consider this a good sign, rather they reflected the lack of robust interchange. I craved understanding how the other commissioners coming from very different places saw things, but there was no opportunity to do so except at lunch. Instead we had LENGTHY presentations from various entities which were often repetitive and sometimes felt like propaganda rather than information. I also

For GA-MC 15 there was survey data from the last GA that we didn't see
N/A

Earlier notice of when committees would be meeting. We were told to hold four weeks open without being told when we were going to be in Louisville for several months. This meant that only those with extremely flexible jobs could be elected as commissioners. Having the exacts dates of service as soon as possible would allow for I wish the outside ADVOCATES serving the EJ Committee were more balanced

A better way to see upcoming motions before they are voted on.

I guess maybe a list of contact people and a copy of the presentation offered by MRTI. I need to present to my congregation when I return and I will need to defend the decision which means I'll need THAT presentation

More support from my local church body

I think having more instruction time working through PC-Biz, SessionSync, and how to be recognized is necessary. More than just showing us where it is, but taking us through the steps.

Reading minutes. Worship leadership was expected and being a TEC not unachievable. But more details on #NAME?

I would have liked all of the prime equities on a physical card.

more info on the time commitment required encompassing the training(prepp), and virtual time needed after the I had no idea that as a committee moderator I would have a whole leadership team working together! What a contact list for committee members with language preference-- including presbytery affiliation, cell, email & More parliamentarian training.

A basic outline of what is expected of a commissioner. Slower computer training. Too much was assumed we

None

I think, if anything, I would have appreciated a brief description of what kinds of things my committee would be covering when I received my assignment. Certainly, items were available on PC-biz, but an overview of what the items might have in common, what led to the being assigned to this committee. This would have helped give me Just a better explanation of what my role would be. This was my first GA and I felt overwhelmed at times

I found that it would have helped if there had been an overall statement from someone stating exactly what one needed to do to prepare for the committee work. As it were I repeatedly returned to PC Biz to see if there were

I wanted more information for the plenaries that was easier to access.

I cannot think of any.

Role of advocates and how to integrate them into the committee time. We had some trouble tracking down if there was something missing, I do not know what it would be.

this was my first exposure to such a great event. I pray everyone enjoyed and cherished the diversity and acceptance of their neighbor as i did. What is missing how to propagate the love of God to the churches and The only thing would have been to know where to review the next day's business in advance. I did find that information out, but it wasn't clear where to seek that. Once I knew where to look, I appreciated reading the overtures in advance so that I could understand them better. I wondered if other commissioners may not have Hands on practice with PC Biz on seeking recognition and making motions.

The way of parliamentarians " how critical they were. Would that all commissioners had a course of study NA

Felt I had all

I wish those that needed more tech training would have gotten it. Some folks did have the best computers and they only had that. I found that the best way to keep up was to have both a computer for zoom and a tablet for session sync. I saw some who got confused if the session sync page was displayed on zoom. They would I wish I had printed overture information for myself for committee meetings.

N/A

To be informed about the committee I am a member of.

A review of the sequence of events.

information from opposing views on overtures

I felt like a lot of information was nested in some weird areas in PCBiz. It was my first time using PCBiz and it was Better understanding of how to work through the materials in PC-Biz, including historical materials, which were helpful when I could directly link work. But, our committee didn't show up in every past assembly.

It would have been helpful to receive training from my presbytery before I attended GA. I figured out what I was supposed to be doing in real time and it would have been nice to have some training ahead of time.

I did not realize that the plenary hours would not be staggered to adjust for other time zones. We are a Global church and we should have adjusted the hours to make attendance slightly more convenient for every time

The data that the proponents of the Israel and Palestine question brought to justify their decision or recommendation in labeling the Government of Israel with Apartheid.

An easy written way to review how to navigate PC-biz and for training to work on my mobil device. Could only access the GA connections page from my laptop.

It cost me money out of my pocket to purchase an additional monitor and I had to pay someone to help me set up and be ready for the actual assembly. I had help from your tech people at my committee meeting.

I was a First time Commissioner, through the information and training- I felt well prepared.

I did not know we would need to spend significant time on Day One getting oriented to our tech. If we had known in advance, we would have built that into our agenda. Also, as stated above, there was a MAJOR change in Financial Implications for one of our IOBs that nobody on our leadership team knew about it advance (I was

Nothing

Insight into the flow of Committee and plenary sessions in terms of Committee Recommendation hand-offs for plenary, plenary ability to pull anything off consent, reconsider etc.

Ability to respond to comments/statements that were not addressed or that I could not get recognition to speak I wish I had a list of all the committee members, what their role was, and where they were from ahead of time. It would have been helpful to be able to get a feel for who the committee is ahead of time.

It was not so much not having the information, it was having the time to organize the learned information within, so communication all around would not have been strained.

i was good to go.

I wish I had been aware of how committee meetings were going to be working. I didn't really understand how individual meetings were going to function before arriving in Louisville.

N/A

Print-outs of all docket materials

I had what I needed.

I am not sure what is available. The printed materials in PCBiz were limited in the extent of information that they provided. The additional information we needed was provided in the committee meetings by the resource folks and that was excellent, and the video about the drivers of migration and immigration were helpful. I tend to like to think about things over a period of time rather than make in the moment decisions, and maybe the way that committee and assembly works, some in the moment decision making is required, but if more info was An information packet listing nearby restaurants and their types, i.e. - steakhouse or grill, Asian, Ethnic specialty, Informal, Vegan or Vegetarian. Also having some fresh fruit available at breaks in addition to cookies would be Was on Moving Forward/Vision 2020 committee and I wish we'd known more about the process, the work of the task forces, and the structural issues prior to arriving. We spent essentially a day in orientation.

More about the space, what was available in Kentucky, chances to gather with folks.

An understanding of my Committee work. I was on GA-PAP. The governing structures and the relationships are very arcane and there was a lot of assumption that we knew what the various agencies did.

None

better explanation of plenary processes

Information on commissioner overtures.

As any advisory delegate, I would wish to get more details about what are my responsibilities to prepare in A better understanding of Robert's Rules of Order!

More training on parliamentary procedures. Understanding what things meant in like "09 answers 05, 04, 03" - See #5 answer.

I felt I had all I needed

It would have been good, during training, to look at some of the hot button issues before each committee with someone who was aware of them. When people start lobbying in plenary, especially during time crunches, it seems that we discussion gets caught more in the anxiety of the moment instead of attempting to have any real Access to Background info on important/controversial motions to see where this debate has already been

Received all I needed.

n/a

Option to use break-out sessions to fine tune committee work would have been helpful to know and use on the I wish there was a clearer conversation around conducting business - how to engage the heartfelt realities of what we are addressing, while also working to perfect language communally. I felt often people's emotions about topics overcame their ability to participate in improving the language, even though in the end that was This was my first GA, so, perhaps a primer on "how it used to be".

something on how the committee meetings would start, when and where, so I didn't have to wander around. I must admit that the volunteers did a great job of rescuing the wandering commissioners

a better understanding of how to use the technology - it was hard for everyone to figure out!

None

None

More information about writing the report, especially the technology involved in writing and posting the report. Not everyone is knowledgeable about Dropbox and Google Docs.

I would like to have specific guidance on what resources would be useful to me and where to find them. I am not one to explore on the computer--I would rather be told--here are these items, here is where you find them, More Airport to center info and back

I so appreciated being able to lead worship after lunch break on Friday-Is there a way to get a recording of that? Simple things, like how to log onto the zoom for the meeting time.

Like I said above. When a person is new to this or a "first-timer" it would be helpful to have all the necessary information come to me in one place or be able to access it in one place. Navigating everything on my GA worked but it took awhile to get used to finding what I needed and where. Maybe some sort of check list would

Current statistics of the issues surround the committee agenda

N/A

As a first-time commissioner, I felt intimidated by more experienced folks. So maybe polity advice that provided Outline of Parliamentary Procedures - just an outline. Then we could saved time not having to explain this over Didn't know that Synod minutes were to be reviewed and would eat into Mid Councils committee time to review A template for submitting motions, including the verbal components of how to talk through the motion.

Motions in committee and plenary work differently.

More explanation of the format of the plenary and the time commitments involved for the online format.

Resources were plentiful.

A schedule for plenary that explained things- such as the Hands and Feet Initiative and what the time after was supposed to be used for. When in Louisville- a paper map that showed the walking route to the center. I know we all have phones, but just a little diagram printed on a piece of paper would have been helpful. And directions for where to go when you show up at the center. I just followed another commissioner who seemed to know I wish I could have had the advocates information that was presented and not printed. There was not ways to check facts and figures nor was there much sources data.

Plan for information for alternates - how best to "catch them up" should the need arise. Fortunately I had been to many previous GAs and knew the "lay of the land", but had I been new it would have been challenging. Not Reports from ecumenical partners. Also I had printed copies of ECU committee documents that I gave to a Asian interpreter to use with a mission advisory delegate on ECU Committee.

It would nice to have a GA News update that would feature items that might be considered controversial, leading to bigger changes within the denomination, etc. You did something like that in the GA info provided as A printed "cheat sheet" on how to use PCBiz during the assembly.

Just an agenda and overture write ups.

It would have been nice to have a training showing what moderators/co-moderators would see and need to I had all the resources I needed for the committee.

Simple 'cheat sheets' for Robert's Rules.

Inside information about the relationships between agencies, for example, OGA and PMA, and how things worked between them. When it came to deciding about FIN-10 and MOV-02, those factors were important. Additionally, it is within our rights to ask process questions. Nevertheless, PC-Biz didn't allow us to make those

More time to ask questions

Explanation of B&O Committee roles and methods at time of committee assignment. It worked out OK, no because I was asked to go as an alternate 2 weeks before the committee met, it was a lot of catch up. The arrangements went smoothly as far as transportation and hotel arrangements thanks to Courtney.

I am not a rockie, I've been engaged with the church for the last 40 years but somehow I don't understand what the term "mid-council" means. Not sure if that's a new term. Also a better understanding of PMA and those national offices that most congregations don't relate to on a daily basis would help

Training on committee work - what we were expected to have done prior to arrival, beyond simply reading the committee's IOBs. Possibly could have tasked out the more complex IOBs to specific commissioners (or asked for volunteers) to develop summary sheets on key issues ahead of time. Could have asked for pro-con analyses

Previous biannual budgets, Description of the ordinary nomination process for special

More pcbiz training

Parliamentary procedures

More information about how various staff of PMA and OGA did work which overlapped with the work of our committee. These staff were very important resources during our committee's time together and it would have

I wish I had more background on some of the IOBs that other committees had. I felt I was learning and making

Explanations of the process, including the political process

The amount of time required.

I think I had access to everything I needed.

I got all the resources and information prior to the assembly meeting.

More information on the entire GA process

N/A

there was information spread across several websites. I expected overture advocate videos to be in the "resources" tab of PC-Biz but didn't realise until i got there they were on a completely different website. It would

Toda la responsabilidad desde el inicio. El solicitar etapas por separado ; causa que el participante no entienda lo requerido en cada etapa del proceso hasta que se le solicita con un corto periodo de tiempo para responder.

Opino que la notificaci3n en d3as feriados y s3bado, domingo en horas fuera de 8:00 am a 5:00 pm son solo justificaciones de cumplir respecto a quien solicita. Pero en una actividad que se convoca cuatro meses antes del evento, no tiene sentido. Los recursos de GA deber3an seguir un listado de cumplimiento con fechas

There were plenty of video resource available and I commend the OGA for all the work preparing these videos.

N/A. Rec'd enough with online training. I knew what to expect

Where and when I could pick up my meal card and assembly ID

Actual information on the issues. So much was only visible the day or moment that something was being all good

Again, better navigation.

It would be helpful to know which items would be up for discussion during plenary at least the day before, so

The amount of time required for the assembly to include the lag time between committee meeting dates and GA computer training

Better directions as to how the online training worked. I watched all the videos but it didn't register. I'm still not

I wish our committee had had an opportunity to informally discuss business and prepare before; the ability to know what kinds of amendments the rest of the committee had in mind beforehand would have helped us do

n/a

I was exhausted and frazzled when I was asked to debrief with trackers immediately after we were finished with our committee work. I was not in any position to answer their questions about plenary content at that time.

Navigating the tech system was REALLY a pain, and I consider myself tech savvy! It really added an arduous level of complexity to the proceedings. Especially how to file amendments, motions and even SECONDS needed extra

I felt a little in the dark until about 4 days before about exactly what was happening with traveling and stuff

While we probably don't need a full per diem for meals (like if we are on site), a partial one would be helpful. For those of us living alone, or working from the office on the Zoom part, cooking meals was a challenge.

Ninguno

I think all the information was there but was hard to find sometimes as it was scattered over several web pages

It would have been beneficial to get a more personal approach to the work at hand. It's great to read and check out the resources on the overtures. It would also be great to have an organized but informal gathering of

committee and committee leadership when committees were assigned. A getting to know you type virtual event I did not realize the moderators could stop the questions and comments abruptly when they felt they had heard

enough. Some of the overtures were rushed through with insufficient thought. Some good ideas were lost this way. Also, some actions were reversed because the moderators at least in my group failed to fully consider some

I think I had all the resources I needed.

None

Maybe more printed resources in the committee rooms so it would be more accessible in short time.

Me gustar3a recibir el texto completo de las resoluciones que aprob3 el comit3 y el texto final aprobado por la Asamblea, es muy importante para mi iglesia por el tema de migraci3n

More practice with the voting process for the committee (both for the committee members and for the moderator/vice moderator/assistant) prior to the in person meeting. Leadership received some sample scripts

An overview or checklist of training and preparation materials.

Better access to book of order

More information about how to provide testimony ahead of time - those deadlines zoomed by very quickly!

N/A

I did not receive my per diem/shirt beforehand (not sure if others did or not). It would have been helpful to have

N/A

Emphasis on training module schedule as I was late getting into those as I didn't have some of the technology

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The agenda and what items will be on the agenda.

More time reviewing the technology for making/amending motions.

A strategy to absorb and understand the voluminous reading material. I felt unprepared.

As a first-time commissioner, I think I received good training, but I also think that GA is such a mammoth thing that the best training I got was actually participating. I feel like I understand SO MUCH MORE about PCUSA and I was a Committee Moderator, and I would have loved to receive a bit more time and training related to the actual moderator interface on the computers in the room. Especially related to motions - when a motion appears on my screen, how do I communicate with the parliamentarian and transcriptionist to make sure they have it, give them a heads up it will be displayed on pc-biz, etc. We used a lot of sticky notes, maybe that's the best way. :) But it maybe if the mods and vice mods of the 4 committees meeting my week could have had an hour Sunday night or Monday morning with the tech folks to walk through that system, that would have been great. Or a pre-Assembly Zoom training with shared screen, so we could see the Moderator's interface, walk

As a first time commissioner, a written overview (not video) of the business items coming.

A complete outline of all committee responsibilities. Computer link listing for any information not in PC Biz.

Overview on definition of terms and processes

I wish there was clearer training on how to speak to the moderator when you were at the microphone during the committee meetings. This could include examples of people approaching the microphone to ask questions, make motions, etc before people officially begin the process. I am more a visual learning to this would of made me

More information about each day's agenda. I never knew what was up the next day. I would like to have had time to review and be better prepared for discussion.

Current copy of the Book of Order or information on where to find it online.

How and when to write and submit an amendment. Best practices and such.

Nothing

meetup in person outside of committee

I had enough information online for committee work.

More PCBiz training/better understanding of the platform.

A summary of all the items of business each committee was addressing. I'm thinking a single document rather than having to visit each committee's page. My apologies if such a document existed and I missed it!

Printed copies of the overtures my committee was considering. A detailed packing list for tech items and

I did not know about the time restraints for keying in responses in pc-biz. I was not able to complete all the reading that was required to be fully prepared.

I feel like I was able to access the information and resources that I needed. However, I did feel that we should have been invited to have guided tours of the Louisville offices. We only navigated our committee rooms and the common areas for eating, etc. I would have loved to see more of the building. It's my denominational

We had a last minute agenda item that I did not read before we met to discuss it.

A Book of Order, which I ordered and have a copy of now. A "new" Hymnal. My church is still using an old dark blue copy. A manual of how to utilize PC-Biz and where to find the end votes when I had to be gone.

Resources and information were plentiful. As with all General Assemblies, there is so much information to

Perhaps more work on the Plenary Sessions -- I was prepared to read the committee reports and trust the process, but felt that there was a lot of dialogue and discussion on the floor for which I was not prepared. A timeline for the length of plenary sessions. I knew they were "long" days, but didn't realize that they were that I didn't realize that the deadline for submitting a motion as a commissioner was the only chance to have our voices heard on topics not related to overtures. As a life-long Presbyterian, I am shocked and appalled that we did not address the huge impact Covid has had on our churches, closures, pastoral burnout, and mental health crisis. We really should have spent significant time on the situation of our denomination and its steep decline. We have so much good to share with the world, but our voices are so lacking focus that we are muted while the I know this was the experiment, but organization of what each piece of the training would actually do to help the prep would have been helpful. As it is, it was just, these things need to be done on this timeline.

Ninguno.

I might have missed the information to read my committee's IOB and the IOB's of the other committees as well. More clarity between the various resources. Between GA website, MyGA website, and the separate PC-Biz I had everything I needed

None

While I printed them for myself, a printed booklet with descriptions for the various Parliamentary options (crystallization, perfecting a motion, etc.) may have been helpful. The printed Parliamentary motions It would have been helpful to have been sent the commissioners in our Synod just to make a connection with Rules and procedures

I think I was as prepared as I possibly could have been. There are some things that you just can't train for...you need to learn as you're experiencing them.

Worship materials, pre-COVID assemblies provided a worship book that was an invaluable resource.

I think I had everything - the volume is what it is. Maybe placing them in categories could help some people: tech; committee responsibilities; content.

None

Access on Resources and Research Materials used by some commissioner who made excellent recommendations and amendments presented for a vote.

Better training on how to enter motions through the session sync toolbox.

None

On the corner on PCBIZ that names the presbyteries that have sponsored overtures, would be nice if a map was shown or linked to show where the support is coming from.

Better understanding of parliamentary procedures

The issues of Outlook that were offered to the original Commissioner. Not much at all to complain about!

In Financial Resources, we noted that information about current/previous years would be useful in all budget Ability to look at more than one resolution at a time when considering a particular topic. Shorten the list of resolutions when in committee. It was difficult to find VIOL at the end of the long list.

I would have liked more notice of the schedule so that I could figure time off better.

Mainly, how to prioritize the readings. If you have other responsibilities, it will be impossible to read everything, but it is important to read up on issues that one has an investment in.

A summary of the overtures and their advocates. The process of amending and making motions within our committee (i.e., the tech side); we learned about session sync but the Roberts Rules of amendments happened in the moment instead of before. My committee also did not do a get to know you ahead of the assembly as

More of the explanations in layman terms

N/A

More printed information about decisions coming up.

This relates only to staying at the Galt House. I drove down. When I arrived, it was very unclear how to check into the hotel, and where I should park. I later learned I could have parked in the garage and just thrown away

An email with an agenda of when all of the sessions were to start. It took me some time to navigate through my GA to even know how to get around. The first few times getting into my GA and to the Zoom meeting was very clear understanding of how to submit: Amended the motion Submit a substitute motion Zoom plenary process and the guideline of how the speakers will be selected

It needed be long " and I subsequently found most of what I needed digging around the PCUSA websites " but a general overview of how the national organizations related to one another and down the organization to synod and presbyteries and then ultimately to congregations. I think there are some assumptions made that More guidance for the extent that the duties of a TSAD would demand before signing up for a full class load

A sense of calm

I believe a bit more training/resources on parliamentary procedure would have been helpful. For example, training that a motion to "disapprove" isn't typically the wisest first motion to be on the floor (in case more I wish we had more time to ask questions. We were rushed along, but my committee finished a day early. I wish they had had more time for us to ask questions in committee.

It would have been helpful to have had more information about how the General Assembly engages internationally in advance of the committee meetings.

N/A

I wish I had understood better that it would have been beneficial to have read ALL of my committee reports thoroughly, not just skimmed them. I didn't feel as prepared to discuss them as I would have liked.

None, really.

Maybe a summary of previous Assembly work done by my committee

More detailed about the category of reimbursement ! Ex. " airport parking, mileage from home to airport, none

PDF of readings required for committee rather than printing piecemeal through copy paste and many different

NA

technology training and access

Listado final de las decisiones tomadas.

List of names and addresses of committee members

I wish we had had all of the information that was referred from the previous assembly sent to us (a link perhaps) as soon as we were elected. It would have been helpful to have gone through that content and context prior to

How can we better prepare future committee members?

To know the end time of meetings on the schedule. I had no idea we would meet until 11 pm or midnight. After participating in one committee and watching snippets of several others via livestream, I felt that those committees that recessed for small group discussions AND took the extra time to carefully craft their recommendations had smoother sailing through the plenaries -- i.e., less word smithing, better defense, and a I had to miss one of 3 committee trainings because by the time they were scheduled, I already had a previous information on the proposals the committee was to act on ahead of time would be helpful. Went into the committee mtgs essentially blind.

See previous comment- trainings for different technology needs.

Additional pre- assembly meetings with committee leadership

See above-I definitely like the idea of online committee meetings-some time for each member to give a brief introduction might build community-I found very little on FIN

More time with your specific committee during training.

Just have things sent out as early as possible.

Be upfront about what kind of time commitment commissioners would have to face. No training prepared me

Provide committee specific training.

Continue to provide information and training in advance, as happened this time.

We didn't have much communication from our moderator/vice-moderator prior to coming in person.

Encouraging leaders to have more communication would be helpful.

Provide abstracts of IOBs on PC-Biz with tables noting the relative weight, so that committee members have an idea of which items they should spend more time focusing on.

See above.

The online training component was confusing. In some areas, the trainings were not able to be marked "completed" nor reflected as completed in the graphic or percentage rate representations of 'completeness'

The technology needs to be simplified. It took me a bit to feel adept.

Possibly a detailed description of what you should be doing to prepare for your role.

Committee issues training

Encourage presbyteries to ensure that commissioners and advisory delegates have and are trained on the devices necessary to participate effectively, access to good internet, and a quiet, comfortable place in which to participate. Not everyone's home is amenable to many hours of Zoom.

If it is possible to simplify the information sent regarding the preparation for the committee meetings that would have helped a lot. There is a lot of information and it gets very confusing.

Give Pre GA time to introduce yourself to fellow Committee members.

Some of the info. about extra technological concerns came in within a couple weeks of me needing to leave for Louisville. It was barely enough time, but earlier notice would have been better. Also, it would have made my life much easier to know what committee I was on and when it was meeting earlier.

No additional suggestions

In view of GA226 being online committees and in-person plenary, practice runs with the tech look appropriate. ALSO more training on the Equity Prime cards for Moderators. They were not used AT ALL in our committee, except being made available to us on the second day, and that AFTER I asked about them in an email to the Invest in a how to booklet.

Continue to provide training and resources

Do not apologize for a hybrid meeting structure. The structure worked well for those who leaned into the process. The savings and efficiency balanced our Presbyterian need for connection

Having some video reports about the topics would have been helpful. I was on the GA Ministry Coordination Committee and while the fast sheets were helpful I think that a video presentation of the variables from resource people would have been helpful to bring the information together. In general I think that written reports might be harder for some folks to engage with who are neurodivergent. Perhaps it even would have been helpful to have all of the committees meet once before gathering to get an orientation to the overtures and the resource people. I need time to process so two days was fast to comprehend the material shared in the A meeting with the committee before the start of committee sessions to practice proper procedure for speaking and with session sync so there would be less time lost trying to figure it out.

I appreciate all you did it was amazing to me from Africa.

Because there is so much information to read, members need to focus on their IOB and trust and rely on the other committee recommendations for voting. Also, some mock Robert's Rules training would have helped A better outline of the National Church, its agencies, and how they are related including history should be a part of training for commissioners and delegates.

Since 226th GA will be the OMEGA format, it might not be as important, but I would give a very basic run down of Zoom in some of the training - such as "how to change your name" basics AND that you'll need to double check your name each time. This refrain did take up valuable plenary time. But, as I've said, it might not be as important for online committee meetings since the group is much smaller. I thought the training platform was I really felt plenty prepared

I would suggest a short reading list of background material on substantive issues at least 6 months in advance for those who want to be up to speed on the issues. Also, if there are to be pre-meetings make sure that people know about these commitments when they agree to set aside the time.

The on-line trainings on MYGA and the zoom class were very good, easy to navigate and helpful. The MYGA lessons just need a better way of indicating that you have completed the training even if it is checking the button that you are finished yourself, we just need to be told to do that.

I think perhaps it would be best to make the trainings a lot closer to the actual GA event. Having trainings in May when the event was in late June/July made it hard to remember what we learned online. It also made the event feel a LOT longer than it actually was. Other than that, the preparation was more than enough. You learn a lot as BALANCED input for any overtures to come before Committees

I think you did an excellent job. I was thoroughly impressed with how well you organized things through online Keep a better pace of the IOB so that there is not a need to move the schedule around.

PC-Biz is getting better, but the amount of scrolling to find stuff makes it more like Windows Explorer than a website. I think part of the training could be having commissioners find, copy, and paste certain parts of Far more details on the function of the committee and material coming before them. Had to do a lot of last the network was good but stopped in the meetings free I was there in Louisville I know no one and those from my presbytery were indifferent groups covid made people want to stay separated

More training with committee members, more interaction with committee members before GA meets.

- orient them to the structures/systems of the denomination (its 6 agencies, offices, etc.), their roles, - briefing of parliamentary procedure and how committees will work (how IOBs will be presented, who will be able to I really appreciated the pre-assembly zoom calls. Very helpful.

More training how to use the parliamentary toolbox.

In certain instances the turn around time for requested information was short given ones daily responsibilities at church and at home. Establishing text and cell communications with committee moderators to supplement emails sent would assist in establishing relationships and could serve as a gentle reminder of upcoming tasks.

To know that the use of technology is essential. While there will be support to help, a working knowledge ahead of time is needed. To know that there will be a lot of time needed to prepare in advance for committee and plenary work. There was a ton of reading and a lot of valuable training resources.

more YAAD input

I received an email about coming to Louisville the day before I was scheduled to leave my home which I did not have time to read until I was at the airport. There was information in the email that would have been helpful to
Now that there is footage from 225, it would be a tremendous help to show participants how committee
A self guided computer training would be helpful so you can go at your own pace or back up if needed.

None

In our context, it would have been helpful to do a quick discussion of the tech process in person. Not as detailed as the Zoom trainings (which were really helpful!), but just a refresher to help us get started. I didn't realize going into committee meetings how things would end up on the consent agenda, though I was able to find that information within resources. It was also then that I realized that constitutional changes would still need to be approved by presbyteries - something I know but just hadn't connected to our committee work because it wasn't explicitly laid out. I guess I would have liked an explicit discussion of the process of what happened with our
If they are a first-timer, just make sure they have training or written information on exactly what their role will
Since committee members and committee moderators are assigned before the meeting there could be at least one zoom meeting to get to be introduced to each other.

Offer more in-depth training to first-timers.

A heads up or reminder as to how tedious and time consuming the plenary work can be.

I had trouble knowing what to focus on. Overtures overlapped. I read everything, but wish I could have done more on the "key" items of business.

Stressing the important of a few whole committee Zoom meetups before GA and clear resources for leaders for the orientation times. Also templates for social contract.

Continued prep, encouraging us to read and ask questions. One thing that might be helpful would be to have more practice so we could be more confident in speaking out.

thank you for job well done. because this was the first-time highbred GA can not see further improvement which is inevitable not to see improvement in the next GA. my wish is to allow congregations to observe the
The RGJ committee met several times on Zoom and was given resources and classes to take before going to Louisville. This helped immensely for building community and starting to understand the issues and items of
Can't do enough training on parliamentary procedure....showing excerpts from previous assemblies in training videos would be particularly helpful.

Honestly, I think you did a really good job. Especially considering the breadth of material that needed to be
Meeting with a Presbytery rep to review and discuss the overtures prior to committee meetings. I was able to discuss the overtures with my pastor as he was also a commissioner but support from the Presbytery would have

See prior answers

NA

I felt prepared, but know we needed to give extra help to some in our Presbytery who were unfamiliar or uncomfortable with technology. But that was a pleasure

I'm not exactly sure if we could have prepared more. This GA was a first of its kind and we are not sure if it will be this way again. Only God knows.

Ask people to use phone or tablet with session sync. And drill home the need for decent headphones. Some people used really cheap ones that leaked sound and there was a buzzing echo all day. Of course this would just polish things up. Over all things went smoothly by the end of the 1st day.

Continue to send timely relevant information!

Direct them to past committee meetings.

By informing them.

Emphasize how important it is to read all the background information provided. Provide more hands-on training on submitting motions/ amendments. Emphasize Robert's Rules(this was one of the training items approached
I was surprised by some additional zoom meetings that were scheduled. In person, it would have been much more organic for Bills and Overtures. I also feel like Bills and Overtures was not asked enough on how to give

More content descriptions and reflections so they know what they are looking at specifically. Links to current statements and stances.

Consider the hardship of Global EAD's and MAD's as well as Mission Partners who are engaged in this work but cannot manage their schedules for the Eastern Time Zone.

On controversial items, I think the GA Committee organizers should mobilize the pros and cons of volunteer groups on both sides to create better equity in the response and discussion over the subject.

Resources available much earlier to view and read.

Make them aware of the things and the type of technology they will be required to be able to use prior to them saying yes to being a commissioner.

Release Overtures earlier.

I don't know, I think overall you did as good a job as you could have.

Explain what RP, OA, etc. mean and what they do Also, an explanation of committee leadership roles beyond chair, and vice-chair.

I thought preparation was very good. For some commissioners it might have been helpful to pair up more technically experienced commissioners to talk/work through the technology.

I think what was available was adequate.

Provide an explanation (talked through) by experienced GA participants & leadership an end to end flow from preparing for Committee work through final Plenary session to approve the budget in order to better understand and trust the work done in Committees, the focus areas when the Recommendation is modifying the Book of Let them know that once you speak you are not allowed to speak again on an issue.

I think, if moving toward virtual committee work in 2024, it would be best to create some form of group chat/connection feature where members can share ahead of time and begin forming relationships. I imagine without some form of relationship started, virtual committee work will be harder than in-person.

I feel what could or should have been accomplished was absolutely done, as best anyone could have offered. But possibly earlier communication generated before everything goes into a complete workload situation.

More time together before we start our work. Break you the work so we are not sitting for 8 hours four days in a roll. Health and wellness of commissioners

While I found all information I felt I needed while searching PC(USA) web sites. A link leading to a menu for all training and informational sites or information relative to the business of the OGA would be helpful.

go back to in person training hosted by synods.

Maybe having more information for future YAADS. I didn't exactly understand my role and what I would allowed to do and not allowed to do.

I believe it is the responsibility of each commissioner to do their homework.

N/A

Make sure you have two devices so you can flip back and forth.

Encourage committee members to look through items with an eye towards potential amendments to increase the quality of amendments and engagement with the material beforehand.

It seemed like there were people who had been to GA many times and then people who hadn't. For those who are first time attendees, it is very difficult to know how to best fulfill this role. Maybe add a training just for first In initial contact, stress the importance of beginning to review materials early. Fortunately, I did and was very happy I was not playing catch-up.

I am genuinely concerned about how committees will function under the Omega plan. Our committee would not have worked through things the same way on Zoom. In person, we could turn to experts in the room to ask side questions. We could easily break into small groups to work on perfecting language. We could talk with others outside the room to clarify matters. Much of that will be impossible or really ineffective online (and I say that as a person who works on Zoom 75% of the time for my day job).

Provide information about what is expected and time frame.

You need to give at least one training on the COMMITTEE itself. What is this committee? What are the various agencies? When we make changes, who's going to be affected the most.

Training was offered. It was apparent some did not take part which was frustrating to those of us who did.

prepare better for plenary, for first timers

Robert's Rules and how to perfect motions!

Several items (including this survey) went to spam because they were coming from different sources. It would be better if all of the information came from the same address.

As we go to Omega format, create team building opportunities for Committees to build relationships. Include Presbytery (and Synod) Nominating Chairs in early information on GA. These groups select the Commissioners.

I believe plenty of time was available for familiarity with all the items on our agenda

I would like more people to be more aware that the process is just as important as the content that is being talked about. It feels that people get caught up, at times, in winning the debate regardless of the methods.

Resources for parliamentary procedure basics as a refresher or introduction

I thought I was prepared.

n/a

You folks were amazing with the training. Excellent videos! I had a challenging time finding and learning the Equity Prime information. Maybe some committee/GA examples would be helpful.

As a first time commissioner, I would have appreciated a first-timer/refresher zoom for how exactly to do amendments and why. I also wish more people were linking the comments and original authors when making committee recommendations or movements, so perhaps point out to people all the players to involve in final

Maybe a panel discussion on the evolution of the GA experience. This was my first and I was in the 4th committee wave, so I had the benefit of course corrections from the first three weeks.

maybe an email pre committee meeting telling us where we were meeting

Remind commissioners that the Book of Order is difficult to change and takes a long time to amend. The Book of Order is not a Manual of Operations so there are more appropriate and more effective ways to call for or enact change than trying to amend the Book of Order! Remind people that wordsmithing and calls to reconsider during plenaries is cumbersome and time-consuming. The advice of our experts (such as the ACC) on what is doable or what would conflict with other areas of the constitution should be strongly considered.

This depends somewhat on the format of GA and committee meetings. Since GA 226 committee meetings will be online, more group building will be necessary before and during. Committee work was the most rewarding part of my service to the assembly greatly due to the relationships that were formed and the size of the group.

Somehow, perhaps through breakout rooms on Zoom, those bonds that lead to the development of trust should

Keep them informed

Explain exactly what information must be read and acted on. Initially, as Moderator of GA-PAP I was told our committee really didn't need to do anything with the reports and minutes on our agenda. That was not correct.

Before commissioners are elected, be specific about their responsibilities, especially about the extent to which they might be using various technological devices. My big surprise came when I lugged my relatively heavy HP laptop computer only to find that the technical support people (several of them) tried mightily to connect it, but finally said that it was too old to connect. I ended up having to use 2 I-pads which I had never seen or used

Excellent training opportunities. It verged on too much so some. Maybe discussion of affirming a negative - familiarizing members of the non intuitive language.

Being sure that Covid credentials were viewed-Mine were never checked.

I think the leadership was very prepared. Having said that, because they all new what was going on it felt like it was assumed the rest of us did. That's not really a complaint. Maybe there could be some kind of first time attendee training along with the other training.

More online information to prepare for the committee meeting agenda.

Just help people to realize that they will need to set aside time weekly to do the work.

More polity training--we had amendments to amendments which became confusing. Also, advising folks that they don't always have to make amendments, but can just simply ask questions to clarify intent. Also, more self-awareness for those inclined to comment too much.

Not sure - being a first commissioner, I have nothing to compare

I was confused whether we needed to use the online parliamentary box or not some people did, others just talked through what they wanted to do and it was done for them. This makes a difference when you do not jump in and take action because you do not have time to type everything out or hit all the buttons.

Perhaps a Zoom meeting for the committee ahead of time to get acquainted.

I felt prepared for our actual committee work.

If data is being used or a theological point is being interrupted in support for or against, having that information before would be extremely helpful.

Lots of confusion in Pueblo Presbytery due to 1)vaccination requirements not spelled out prior to commissioner elections including no ability to attend either, or both sessions--in person committee meetings both and zoom plenary 2)time required over 3 weeks. Our originally elected TE commissioner and alternate disqualified. I am moderator elect and I volunteered and was privileged to be a commissioner. However I had to play catchup with Since we are going to be virtual next time you will need to make sure commissioners are well versed with Zoom and PCBiz. It would have been nice to have easier access to the full documents when amendments are being I felt GA did an excellent preparing me to serve and work with the on-line system.

The technology did not work well. Also people did not understand the whole Zoom thing, so they kept speaking to the room. Without using the microphone, I couldn't hear them, so I take my earbuds out, but then have to quickly put them in for the next Zoom advocate. Also, the interpreter services did not work well in committee. It You did great

When we were considering particular items for business, the moderator and parliamentarian did not make it clear what actions we were able to take on specific items. For example, some items we were not able to edit or change at all--it would have been helpful to know more clearly what was being asked of us and what possible It was very helpful to have two introductory meetings with my committee ahead of time. The faces in the room were more familiar and the resource person had time to answer questions. I hope that this happens for every This may sound crazy, but training based upon age. I am pretty techno-savvy for my age (64) but during training and practice PC-BIZ exercises, I felt rushed.

This is more for the advisory delegates. I didn't like that when we were trained for PC-Biz, we couldn't practice making a motion or amending one. I understand that this was because, during plenary, we weren't going to have those options. However, we did have to use them in committee meetings, and I would've liked to have had more Longer training sessions so that we are prepared on how to write motions, amendments, etc.

I'm not sure since the next assembly will be different again" I think that set up will be better though.

Link 1st time commissioner with repeat commissioner for mentoring when preparing for the assembly.

I felt well-prepared. The committee schedule helped me be sure I had reviewed all materials in a timely fashion prior to the start of the plenaries. Being able to observe several committees after my committee week (the first one) ended helped me feel better informed.

for first time commissioners, a little background on their committee responsibilities. I received information to read in preparation, but I didn't know the background on the overtures we were discussing or who submitted The first GA one attends is a training exercise. No amount of training can fully prepare one for the experience.

First, re-read what I wrote in #7 above. Second, choose moderators and vice moderators that work with their committee members ahead of time rather than sending a "sorry, the time got away from me" message the week before arrival. Even introductory sessions via Zoom would have helped.

Perhaps a half day of orientation on process, group bonding/interpersonal time, background on overtures, etc.

Have an introduction/explanation of the scope of the committee similar to the ones for the agencies. Perhaps, a pre-assembly (on-line) meet up for committee members.

More pcbiz training, materials used on Zoom was fuzzy, print was too small and difficult to see on shared screen - the trainer went too fast especially for first timer

Somehow allow more committee member collaboration

With the next GA being online-only for committee meetings, it will be extra important for committee members to have a chance to interact informally and develop trust/build relationships before diving into business.

Give them more opportunities to fully engage and understand the technology. I, as YAAD, have been privy to zoom and open multiple tabs, but others may not have had that luxury. Tech staff did a great job helping on the spot, but some of the issues could have been avoided if more training was done.

We were told "how" to write a motion to amend, but how about a step by step description. Kind of like a "go here and copy this language, go here and paste it, not modify it" kind of thing. It is pretty logical but it seems more complicated than it is. The parliamentarians take it word for word at first but that first time is live in the moment. It would be helpful to get some initial feedback on what's missing so it can be more correct when it

Explanations of the process, including the political process. Better prep for committees. Advocates who are interested in the overall issues and not just a particular overture

Do not do Plenaries online.....

I thought the information was there... more emphasis on where to find it and reminders to fully read the items.

More information about responsibilities.

Allow all of the GA to be in-person, so pre-GA gatherings can occur. These are great vehicles to make commissioners aware of the issues.

Parliamentarian toolbox training Allow committee parliamentarians a stronger more proactive voice. Our committee's parliamentarian was awesome. That says, sometimes the committee was dying in the weeds and she probably could have led us out of the weeds, but she understood her job to be to wait until asked. Explain the reasons we have to use the parliamentarian toolbox. It was frustrating to use and we often wondered why

Allow time in place at meeting to become comfortable before beginning.

Great job was done

In my independent view I believe training of commissioners from an earlier stage can be considered

Have them practice submitting motions by copy/paste the text to edit and submitting exactly what they want the text to be. We had several instances of folks submitting "swap X for Y" or "strike out Z" which left the work to the parliamentarian and slowed the process down significantly.

Detallar pasos a cumplir con listado El cumplimiento de cada paso con solicitudes claras y con adiestramiento para cumplir los más complejos Evaluar los adiestramientos con los participantes mediante evaluaciones abiertas Distribuir tareas conforme a periodo total Evaluar necesidades de participantes periódicamente Evitar ofrecer detalles de proceso en un periodo menor de 3-5 días

It would have been helpful to have some hands-on help preparing for GA from either the Presbytery or GA. The issue for all the first-time commissioners from our Presbytery is that none of us really knew what to expect or

If there were a way to encourage people to do the online training, that would help. I sat through Synod & OGA training and the questions asked were addressed on the online training

Newbies need more info and advice from those who have gone before, and RECs in particular need more advice/assistance on matters concerning pensions and standing rules.

Do not LOBBY the commissioners. The Staff resource folks really became lobbyists pushing agendas. My voice wasn't needed. Do not allow press to sit behind voting commissioners and hence see our voting. The room had no conversation 'dynamic.' I was seated in the back row and all I saw were backs the entire 3 days. No one had anyone's email address. Folks seemed to know 'fast pass' techniques for communicating with the committee moderator. I didn't know how to text or get any request to the moderator. It was an uninspiring and hurtful 3

well done

Have all commissioners learn about WAIT; Why Am I Talking? The same (white male) voices spoke way too

At least for EAD, more information about what would be expected of the delegate.

More knowledge about time requirements.

Have times for mutual sharing and getting acquainted prior to doing committee business. This could online and be best done in small groups.

Notify committee members of their assignments earlier.

Tell them to bring a jacket with them. The room can be cold.

n/a

Perhaps some protocol around making sure they use microphones when speaking, being mindful of camera placement, and how to address the moderators with respect in the corporate gatherings as well as one-on-one.

If we HAVE to use this clunky system, it should be WYSIWYG'ed and streamlined so make the process quicker and more intuitive. It would be very helpful to SEE the motions and questions that are in the queue.

I think making all information that was sent in emails also available on my ga, that way all the information is one place rather than across multiple emails

I'm not sure how I missed the minority report part of the process. I would have liked to have been prepared for Entiendo que tuvimos una buena preparaci3n.

Integrate the online information

As a first-time commissioner, I didn't know what to expect. It's great to go over all the parliamentary procedures as we did, but, I would have appreciated a better understanding of how the work we were preparing to do would impact the church going forward. What happens to the work committees did when it comes time for plenary (that was pretty eye-opening), how and why committee work is important, how to use the resource people and How can you better prepare moderators to facilitate democratic discussion is my question?

I have no suggestions as I felt well prepared,

Make Presbytery's aware of the "tech" requirements when selecting commissioners.

I think being more on a smaller scale for training and such would help information stuck.

Nunca es f3cil en estas Asambleas hibridas y las brechas digitales entre las generaciones creo que se necesita mas de una capacitaci3n previa. Pero en general ha sido muy buena experiencia y hay que felicitarles a todos

Have everyone practice making motions, amending, etc in training.

Give committee members a taste of the flow of their work, perhaps with a sample schedule from a previous assembly, or the ability / option to retrieve video from committee work in a previous assembly.

Too much video material. Should be more concise.

Communication from committee leadership regarding pending business.

More realistic practice training and perhaps access to previous committee proceedings

Perhaps a clear warning about how long reading our overtures and information items would take - I know not all of my committee had found enough time to read all the resources we needed to make good decisions, even though they were available in good time.

N/A

I would say being very clear about roles for first-time attendees. It might even make sense to have some specifically for those who are attending for the first time. A very basic breakdown of what to expect.

Possible plan of action for presenting to local Presbyteries upon return to localities.

I was gung-ho from the beginning. Always wanted to serve the church at GA. Hard to instill that in folks who don't want to do the work.

Most of my lack of preparation was due to my needing more technology background. I didn't get all the training modules completed early enough.

More time with assigned committee.

What to expect during the GA meetings? The length of time the GA meetings last.

Have specific training on making motion/amending motions. Also, revise screen so that the status of the action is visible as a column.

Make it clear to commissioners that they need to allocate ample time to review committee related documents.

I find I learn better if I have a hard copy (vs. online) checklist of tasks (or readings) to move through. I think that all the prep that was done by the denomination and my presbytery was great, but the actual experience of GA taught me how I would prepare next time.

Re: Last minute committee responsibilities: I was committee moderator, and a family emergency meant my vice moderator had to drop out two days before we started our committee meetings. Nothing anyone would have done about that - family comes first - but I want to give a big thank you and shout out to Valerie Izumi for calling me on my cell and asking what I needed and how y'all could help. I felt very supported and knew that if anything beyond my capabilities came up, there would be people there to help. Also huge thanks to Vicente and Manuel, Email written materials with links to PC Biz.

Since Committees will meet on-line and not in-person PC biz may need some major tweeking. This assumes PC Biz will be the recording and record keeping system for committee actions.

There really wasn't much time but something that helps new commissioners ground their "national" church experience and how it connects to local congregation.

I think it would be important to explain in more detail what the role of each of the advisory delegates are, such as what are the goals for being a missionary, ecumenical, youth, and theological delegates. I felt that many commissioners overlooked that in the training and I did not feel very welcomed because I was not a YAD which most people knew. There tended to a hierarchy during this process

See comment in #7.

Video clips of process of amending and discussing items with written pointers and overviews.

It was all there! Perhaps even more emphasis on the importance of the pre-work - videos, training, etc.

Stress the amount of time and the amount of information that needs to be reviewed.

Provide more PCBiz training and explain how the platform works, both for commissioners and for leaders.

You did a great job! The required readings, videos, and trainings were an immense help. Their importance definitely should be stressed to future commissioners.

Send a link to a pdf of all the items we may want to print out. And a packing list.

More detailed training for pc-biz. I have used computers for years, and it was still a challenge for me. Some others in the room were not at all prepared, which caused a distraction. This was not their fault, they just didn't

Make it clearer that committee members should read the agenda items before the committee meets.

Make sure the people are aware and are comfortable using their computers and/or laptops or tablets. I was introduced to computers way back in 1976 when I began working as a keypunch operator in Data Processing. This is not the case with some of our "elders." (no disrespect intended)

GA225 had committees meet in person. GA 226 will have committees meet online. Flexibility in the online format in terms of scheduling meetings, etc. will be helpful to one and all.

Maybe pointing out some of the tougher issues that will be up for discussion on the floor.

Change the whole thing. It's a 1950's model with new technology, but very antiquated thinking. We are not 10 million strong. We are a small church with a powerful message that needs to focus and do a few things well, rather than trying to speak to everything while our message gets lost. There has to be a better process to get this refined and help the committee member speak into the priorities God is calling us to now.

As a MAD, I felt well prepared. I cannot speak for the commissioners.

Organize the training into "how" each piece will be used

Para las/los miembros de edad avanzada, darle mayor adiestramiento de como usar PC-Biz y el ZOOM.

Before committees begin their "business meetings" have a technology check time especially for the

Inform committee members to read all of the IOB's even though some will end up on the Consent Agenda.

See above. More clarity. Perhaps an easier to find interactive forum for the committee members to interact beforehand might be good. though our moderator sending out emails was very helpful.

I believe you did an excellent job in preparing me for my role.

Better technology training for those not well versed in ZOOM, and using two screens or devices at one time.

Continue to build on the excellent process of preparation for this 225th General Assembly.

You really need to attend a GA to know what your roles and responsibilities are and how you will need to function during the Assembly. I'm not sure there is a way to teach this in advance.

I feel that I was adequately trained.

Build on what we learned from this assembly. We have extraordinary people supporting - let's listen for the voices of the commissioners.

I have no suggestions.

More training on why and how amendments and recommendations originate, discussed and planned for

I thought this was extremely well done, training and day to day operations.

A flow chart of the necessary and optional reading material

More practice with toolbox, especially with amendments.

There was little to no attempt by the committee leadership to build community. The first email sent by a committee leader was emailed four days before we gathered. In the future: a Zoom gathering of the committee before the face-to-face committee meeting and asking people to post a video before the gathering would be helpful. The equity prime training and cards were very helpful for the deliberation and workings of our committee. Thank you for these excellent resources and putting them to use so faithfully!

Pre Conference Discussions on the overtures for history, understanding, importance and clarity. Include the clips by the Overtures Advocates and others who want to speak for approval

None

Reminders to complete online trainings so all are not completed quickly.

More postings and updates on MyGA about bus schedules and pick-up locations. These postings can be both online and on a kiosk/message board. Plenary online was intense for all concerned. Like the plan for 2024--committees online and plenary in-person. Makes me curious to attend as an Observer. Well done to all who put the whole GA package together--so many details, so many capable and willing servants--truly.

It's hard to say since committees will happen over Zoom next time.

Also, use a word processor with function that automatically strikes out and underlines when making changes (Like Word "Track Changes").

Information about who we are dealing with. As a 54 year old female from a small community church, I didn't know much about all the gender/binary identifiers but I was expected to understand the differences when stress the parliamentary procedure even more than was in this training.

Ensuring all have good technology.

The crash course on Robert's Rules would be one of the best preparations. For some, this is the first time they're in that formal of a setting where they introduce themselves before they speak, etc. More time together as a committee, especially highlighting our advisory delegates and letting them feel comfortable.

I commend the team on their planning and preparation

Inform them to continuously read over the terminologies that will be used.

Have all information in one location and training done by one body who knew what was expected as well as what the travel information was

Better understanding of overtures in other committees.

Perhaps list the topics that will take some time for discussion. And then let us provide some discussion in writing. It would have been helpful to have time to speak for those who are not fast enough.

#NAME?

See my response to 7. I would have also appreciated a more detailed index - beyond acronyms, etc. that would help one to understand standing committees and advisory bodies including a bit of history (e.g., formed when and what is the group's main charge, etc.).

In the case of myself as a TSAD, more guidance to the time commitment and realistic snapshot of that time while in committee and plenary.

Help them reduce their concerns about performance and help them know there is time to get through the GA
It seems that committees are named in a way that describes their duties. the GA-MC committee's name does quite do that and "outward facing actions" is not a good descriptor--too vague.

Give us more of a chance to interact/practice with PC Biz.

I think the moderator's of committees need more training. It was strange to have decolonized worship and walk into a committee room with an "officers table". There was very little effort to build relationships or encourage people to know one another at the in-person meetings, and it felt like our moderators, etc. were "off-limits."

If it is going to be hybrid, provide enough training for the folks who are not as familiar with online meetings and help them navigate the GA website and Presby biz.

Actually meeting with one's committee to be given an overview and have initial discussion before meeting together for decision-making would be helpful.

Need more help with technology. That is not the GA's fault. I am just not that technological sophisticated.

n/a

You did a fabulous job. If individuals don't accept responsibility for preparation it is their own loss.

Tell future committee members early on about required technology skills and training enhancement.

Ha estado bien como se ha realizado

More content information ahead of time

Make committee assignments earlier. Have more connecting time with committees prior to GA. Have more opportunities for committee members to ask questions and seek information about overtures prior to gathering to consider action. Give clearer information regarding the way the plenary sessions will work.

Please use this space to share why you were satisfied or dissatisfied with the support you received HelpDesk.

I used it during the training, and received a prompt and helpful response.

My questions/issues were dealt with quickly and completely.

I cannot say enough about how helpful and patient they were, especially since I struggled with some technology. The instant response I got was helpful.

They were wonderful. Sorting out hotel reservations, helping me find things in pc-biz.

On Saturday I seconded a motion. The moderator said there was no second. I clicked again. No response. This happened with 2 different motions. Help Desk said "refresh your browser." This wasn't helpful - the browser was supposed to refresh automatically. Nevertheless, I did refresh between trying to second the first motion and trying to second the second one. No joy. I asked, "How can I be sure my VOTE is getting through if my SECOND isn't?" Got an answer about the system being sluggish. Maybe it was, but that didn't answer my question. The moderator never recognized me when I had a question or wanted to amend a motion. Now I will always wonder. At times they were trying to give me solutions that I had already tried. But most of the time, once they were able to respond, they were very helpful.

I was satisfied with the information and assistance the Help Desk provided during plenary sessions, on both technology and substance of the IOBs being discussed.

We were not always using the same terminology for locating icons and other portals. They are not always in the same location on the screen.

I figured out my tech issue before the HelpDesk responded,

This was during a committee meeting. Tech issues, eventually resolved, but it took way too long to get a response. The team was overwhelmed

The people went out of their way to answer my question.

Quick response and helpful

I sent several emails to ga.helpme that were unanswered. Vincent did answer a technical question very quickly. But other inquiries to Deb Davies went unanswered.

N/A

Calling the Help Desk on the telephone was a COMPLETE waste of time. I tried on at least four (4) different occasions and never once got an answer or a call back. The chat box on System Sync worked very nicely and I ALWAYS got a reply and within a very reasonable timeframe. Only once was the answer NOT appropriate.

They did best they could but seemed technology speed sometimes slow resulting in difficulties.

The volunteers had to put up with a lot as it was hard to tell between technological problems on my end or in the system and personal preferences of leadership. These days suspicion of leadership runs throughout our society and can infect the best of us, much more those of us more common.

Quick and thorough responses, very helpful

A desire to help me.

I contacted the help desk to help with an issue on PC Biz. There was a prompt initial response, but their fix didn't work. I didn't get a response the second time, but the PC Biz issue was resolved. I would have appreciated the follow up. I also wish there was a form to fill out to give them information about what I had already tried. I know that you all are working with a diverse group when it comes to how to use technology, so I understood why they started where they did asking me to refresh, but I had already refreshed, logged out and restarted my browser when I contacted them. I wish I could have told them that. In the moment I didn't think to write it in an email because I wanted to be sure I could see the motion amendment we were voting on. A form could have helped. I was satisfied because I received a help from my colleagues who have enough experience on using machine. I did not have enough information about voting but my fellow participants helped me.

I tried to email when I encountered technical difficulties and I got a response that I was blocked so I was left to figure it out on my own and with the grace of God I did.

Quick and very germane to my questions. The people who responded were courteous and competent.

I didn't use the help desk during the plenary sessions of the assembly, but during the committee work, I found them to be slow to respond to my question/comment (I was on Bills and Overtures and I was at home to observe I was zooming from a rural area with chronic, random connectivity issues. This was particularly bad during the plenaries. I missed a total of ~5 hours of the meeting as my connection went down. There is nothing they could do about this, but it seemed important that they know. They were very sympathetic. If we are going to do this again because of disease, cost, climate considerations, I would ask you to consider the equity implications for those who have no access to robust wifi. I am sure I was a much less useful commissioner because of this. I The person in the chat box was short and in a hurry to pass me along. The person on the phone was very friendly and called me back when she had the answer.

Responded with the info that I needed very quickly and was very polite.

The chaplain was great. Getting the help desk to get the information to the chaplain took far too long.

They were always there when needed. Always responded on a quick, efficient matter.

Responses to my inquires were quick and helpful.

I only used it once, but they got right back to me.

fast, proficient and polite

Prompt help

My questions were answered, and I got follow up when needed.

Quick response and problem was solved

It felt hard to have a back and forth to solve a problem - if I responded to an email with a follow up question or clarifying, I often didn't get an additional response. I figured it might have been a quirk of the system or folks

I asked if the exact overtures for each planery could be printed somewhere so I could at least read over them.

The reply back was to go to committees and it would be in their report. Who are they? On Friday, I finally

figured out on my own that it was under Bills and Overtures. Several times information was put up on the Zoom of what overtures would be in which planery and that was what I was looking for.

Each time I got in touch there was response that aided in whatever my need.

They provided for my needs while in Louisville.

I was having a connection issue.

They responded quickly and provided the information I needed.

For all but one of my requests for info, I received a speedy response. There was one instance when it was a day later. By that time I had found what I was looking for.

i was very satisfied simply because you could see the honesty, courtesy and spirit to reach and help..

The parliamentary toolbox was frustrating in the lack of realtime feedback as to why your second wasn't seen by moderators, or why your motion wasn't moved. If there's no feedback you just end up feeling unseen.

They wanted to call but still nice I was using phone to connect had no way no f doing that

Quick and helpful responses.

The technological connectivity issues might have been better foreseen and greater depth of on-site savy people to help those of us of a given age

verification of a process for making an amendment - felt I knew but wanted to be sure.

I had to use Help Desk during leadership training I think once. Prompt attention was given and issue resolved.

The tech team, especially, Vicente and Miguel, responded promptly and professionally to my need for assistance.

The Help Desk was very prompt and either answered my questions or put me in touch with the person I needed

Response was fast. Suggestion on how to solve my issue was exactly right.

They were responsive and quick.

They were there for any questions or conversations needed.

They were very quick to answer though there were times when they were stumped. Like when PC-biz logged me out and I had to create a new password. God bless their honesty when they wrote "haven't had that happen

I called the help desk during an OGA training and couldn't get my computer to side by side screen. The tech person tried to talk over the voice on the training and I never figured it out at that time, losing important information from the training as well as not figuring out how to half the screen.

I sent some advice in for the co-moderators who were clearly struggling to moderate the assembly and heard nothing back - not even a thank you for your suggestions.

I was unable to log into zoom from my end, a few trouble shooting questions helped.

They were available whenever needed.

quick response. questions answered. very helpful.

I received help immediately.

Technical questions were addressed and corrected quickly. Communication issues were brushed aside with the claim "It is all about time issues."

They were always quick to respond and even if they could not provide an answer immediately they made sure to provide one when available.

Immediate attention, or a noted time designated where one did not have to second guess, that their concerns were not being heard and taken care of.

They acted very quickly

Response was quick and the solution was on point which allowed me to get back to the business at hand.

It was obvious that those involved were very willing and able to help. Did have some trouble finding the

they are responsive with accurate information

Help getting on-line

They answered my questions in a timely manner.

Very quick response times, clear responses, no shaming. Excellent work!

If the answer to my question was not in the purview of the Help Desk, they knew where to refer me.

The staff were very helpful ahead of time. I received a call back on a process question in a plenary, which was nice. I tried to call another time during debate and got a voice mail.

The online Helpdesk during the Plenaries were fantastic. They did an outstanding job.

I was not able to get to some parts of the training and the help person got right back to me with possible

In-person was very helpful. During virtual plenaries, there was too much of a time lag to be effective (the "problem" may have been solved, but too late - after an item of business had been settled).

although I couldn't get instant help, they did answer as soon as they could with the right help, and more than

They took too long to respond.

They answered my questions quickly and appropriately.

There were lots of tech glitches. It's hard to say whether things fixed themselves or tech help did something.

Response was prompt. Resolved a technical glitch for me.

They received my request with compassion and solved my issue quickly.

I was sick (with covid) during the plenaries and sent a message to explain why I was off-camera. In training, we were reminded to keep our cameras on during plenaries and I felt guilty for being off-camera. The help desk staff

Vicente Guna responded very quickly and professionally.

They were very quick in responding to my question, even if it were to thank me for letting them know the issue and that they were working on it. Loved the chime to let me know they had an answer/fixed the issue

I was satisfied with the support of the Help Desk for technical matters in that they were quick to respond and obviously took seriously any concerns. There were some technical matters with Zoom and bandwidth speeds that need to be addressed but these were probably not in the control of the Help Desk at the time.

I was satisfied because the fix given solved the issue on my laptop.

Every request was answered promptly, though I kept having the same issue time and time again.

I received a prompt reply and then was able to utilize their advice to accomplish my task.

They answered my question promptly

Vincente Guna was extraordinarily helpful before I got to Louisville. One technical person while I was still at home basically gave up on a particular technical concern. The technical people on-site in Louisville were outstanding and understanding of those of us who are not "computer people." I truly appreciated their

Very timely response always

They were very prompt in their help.

The only stumbling block I had was that sometimes I needed help when the HelpDesk wasn't available. Just because I'm on the west coast and tended to do GA things after work. I always got the answers I needed so that was good but I usually needed to wait until the next day.

They removed my audio issue quickly.

The desk responded in a timely manner. The answer did not "solve" my issue, but they tried.

They were very responsive and helpful and did not let me go until I was set.

The experts were very patient. I had to learn a new language for what I needed to do with zoom and pcbiz and voting and getting the overture's material and meaning-- for 12 hours 5days straight

They quickly assisted me and had my problem solved in a very short period of time. They were GREAT and really

In the spring I could not get into My GA. It would not recognize my password. It took several attempts to finally get me logged in. They also helped with travel. I was a late appointee, so I only started this journey in April or May. Then at my committee meeting, again my password was not recognized nor my link. Help desk quickly got me a link for a new password. Of course, back home when my passwords wouldn't work, I was left stranded

I got quick and very helpful responses from every question I posed.

The HelpDesk let me know right away that they received my request and that someone would be in touch soon.

That actually happened! The parliamentarians were great in helping me with a motion.

Quick prompt help with no sense of judgment.

Did not receive communication with instructions for arranging air travel. Person I contacted promptly worked through the process with me to a satisfactory conclusion. ðŸ˜Ž

They were quick to respond and to answer my questions.

They were right there to assist during the our committee sessions

Apparently my laptop wasn't sophisticated enough to deal with the limited bandwidth available to me. I had to continually shuffle between my laptop, iPad and iPhone, depending on which was best with Zoom and which was best with PC-Biz at any one time. The Help Desk let me know why I was having problems. Although they offered me another iPad instead of my laptop, I got pretty adept at shuffling the devices as I needed to.

I think I used the help desk to access a parliamentarian, and also to notify about commissioners lack of experience with the digital tool box and zoom. In both cases the responses were immediate and effective.

Quick successful resolution to my issue.

The HelpDesk staff were awesome, very helpful with timely responses.

I sent a question to the Moderators (during plenary) which was referred to the Help Desk/Production team.

Even though I didn't think it was a topic that was relevant for the production team, they took the time to reply to my concern and provide what information they could (my concern was not resolved but I appreciated the

They were able to fix my problem quickly. Miguel was super kind in our chat on PC-Biz as well!

Quick response, helpful suggestions, courteous and professional

Fue bueno, ayudÃ³ en el proceso

For some reason, I did not receive the mass emails that were sent to commissioners. I was registered but i did not receive the mass emails. I contacted the GA support but they couldn't figure it out so I simply had my colleagues at National Capitol send me copies of anything they received from GA.

I asked a question and it was answered

The answer came quickly and was 100% understandable.

I asked for specific information that didn't come.

I was satisfied with the knowledge and skills of those working the help desk.

untimely, no one there time zones

They responded promptly to my question.

The responses were very quick.

The helper spoke plain English and didn't use technical words to help me out.

The help desk tried valiantly to answer questions of all kinds that I fielded, and answered me using multiple very helpful

Received the help I needed, but it was obvious that Dev needed additional help in order to get out more timely Prompt response. Good information.

Cuando necesitÃ© informaciÃ³n, la recibÃ­ prontamente. TambiÃ©n contestaron mis preguntas a travÃ©s del I was frustrated by how difficult it was to use the websites. However the staff were very helpful in sorting this out for me, disabling various pop up blockers etc. However I did spend several exasperating hours trying to work

Never received t-shirt as size wasn't available when I checked and never could find them again.

Need more tech assistance boots on the ground. Especially the first and second day.

Whenever I had a question, I received a response and/or thanks.

They were prompt and very understanding with my not very observant questions. I never thought they were

I asked small questions like the location of the bathroom or BIPOC room and I was met with warm responses!

Hay muchos aspectos pero los mas principales para mi fue su total disposiciÃ³n de una y otra vez o cuantas fueran necesarias brindaron la asistencia, el compromiso que mostraron su interÃ©s era que no perdiÃ©ramos ningÃºn detalles de las sesiones. Muy profesional todos los miembros del equipo.

They were prompt in replying. All my questions were answered.

GREAT support!

All of my queries and question were answered promptly and correctly.

It was very fast!

They responded promptly and kept at the problem until it was solved.

They replied in timely manner every time. I was not aware of their scope of help at the beginning so it would have been nice for me to realize that they did indeed have All The Answers. They did a great job. Thanks for Solved the problems I sought help for.

I had a technical question regarding pc biz and their response was prompt and helpful.

I utilized the help desk for tech help during the committee leadership training, and got an immediate call to my cell phone (what?! Amazing!). Used it through the chat during "off hours" to get some process help around procedure for a CR - also quick response and helpful. During our committee meetings, I can't even COUNT how many times we called on the help desk folks at the back of the room. I was so impressed by how quickly, kindly, efficiently, and non-disruptively they attended to everyone's tech needs. I've done some very low-level tech help in my own congregation, and because of that, I am DEEPLY impressed with the kindness, grace, and non-all help needed was provided

Timely and helpful and respectful responses

They were extremely helpful when I was trying to figure out how to do the trainings. They responded clearly and Prompt and helpful responses.

It was prompt, helpful, professional

I used the help desk when I needed help rescheduling my hotel reservation. Deb was very helpful. During the committee meetings I needed help hearing the speakers. The device I had brought to help with my hearing aids didn't work. The tech was able to help me use my blue tooth to help me hear with my hearing aids.

Often during plenary HelpDesk did not reply as quickly as I needed a response, or they were not able to resolve my issue. All of my inquiries related to how PCBiz was functioning for me, versus how it appeared to be functioning for the Co-moderators and for other commissioners.

I could not see the worship on my lap top so I called my Pastor he told me about Spirit of GA which is where I ended up having to see it. I was just seeing blank screen where the live feed should have been

It was user error, and they were very nice about it :)

The earbuds I packed stopped working, and they gave me a free replacement pair! So nice!

The responses were all very timely and helpful. Thank you for providing that support.

Matthew and Vicente solved my technology issues during committee meetings. They were fantastic.

They tried to help me with getting my video recorded. I was unable to accomplish this task. I don't know if it was my laptop or what the problem was, but I never did get it accomplished.

Prompt, polite responses.

I asked each day for 5 days if I could attend virtually as members were getting Covid at the Assembly, the airlines were lifting the masked requirements, and I had to fly 10 hours each way, but no one answered me, and since it was a once in a lifetime opp, I literally risked my life to attend. I surmise liability was the issue. The help desk and the whole Assembly should have had an option for totally virtual attendance.

They were prompt and worked to resolve issues quickly and kindly.

Siempre fue oportuno y eficiente.

Questions were answered in a timely fashion.

The help desk reached out to me twice when I had a process question. Both were very helpful in their

They responded back immediately and referred me to the right people, who were very communicative via email and cell phone. I was also able to submit feedback and get immediate receipt and response, which was a huge blessing. It enabled commissioners to feel heard without bogging our co-moderators- and the rest of the

The responses were quick, courteous, and helpful.

Before coming to Louisville, I had conversations with people in my presbytery and the committee on which I served gave training and a Q&A session. I had difficulty with finding the help desk. That was it.

I was satisfied with the assistance I received from the Help Desk because the response to my questions were prompt and clearly communicated. The instructions given immediately solved the issues I experienced.

They were awfully busy.

They made special arrangements for me. Accommodating all commissioners needs is a huge task.

I thought the HELP desk did a wonderful job of responding to those struggling with modality of meeting. They were able to calm people down.

Responses were prompt, clear, and helpful.

Quick response, solved my issue.

The presbytery of the James, Richmond, VA contacted commissioners early and provided an introduction to GA225, overview of the GA, a calendar for training and contacts for support and questions if and when needed.

They were very quick to respond and were extremely helpful. They had the answers I needed and were polite

The HelpDesk was efficient in giving timely responses.

Problem with not being recognized in PC-Biz

The HelpDesk was quick to answer questions and very supportive. I had a technical issue that they were unable to fix, but they did let me know they were working on the problem.

I received a quick response that answered my question and helped me participate fully.

Immediate Response Time, positive response to questions great and small. Made me feel confident about asking and welcomed future opportunities to assist.

It was a simple question about what was being considered and it was answered promptly.

Fairly quick response

A mere trifle--a song suggestion. (Who does not rock to Sly and the Family Stone? Probably folks younger than I am!) The playing of "Hot Pants" during overture deliberations on sexual assault was out of touch.

I got an answer to my question very quickly.

I used them once in person and another time while on line. The first time, they calmed me down. The second time, they had an easy fix that made a ton of sense. Thank you!

I needed some help in plenary with the shaping of my motion. The help desk connected me to the

N/A

I received information most times I requested. The answers were not always targeted directly to my questions. A few times I did not get a response.

Plenty of technical glitches, with "Vote Now" panels not showing up, conflicting e-mails regarding making reservations for lodging, MODERATORS NOT SEEING ON THEIR LAPTOPS THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WAITING IN THE CUES "FOR" OR "AGAINST" OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK...each time I called to ask for help or sound the alarm where I saw help was needed elsewhere, at least the GA staff were excellent to stay in touch with me!

They were very helpful and friendly. If they could not help, they provided other resources

The people that man the help desk were amazing. They were able to help you in a matter of seconds.

Everyone was very responsive and helpful.

Very prompt and thorough.

The tech staff were reliable, responsive and understanding. Seemingly prepared for everything.

They were patient, pleasant, and best of all, very effective!

They always answered quickly and were very helpful!

They answered my questions very quickly and effectively.

They answered my question quickly.

Someone called me right back and worked on the issue I had. He was a big help.

I had a special request from our moderator to sing during our worship services and I needed to discuss the

My issues were involving my hearing loss. Vincente Gutu responded to my first email to the "Help me" desk. He was warm and professional and ever so helpful. I was able to be tuned in to everything. Andrew (sorry don't have last name) was an immense help in the actual committee meeting.

Staff was responsive, knowledgeable, helpful and supportive in resolving my issues.

HelpDesk was extremely helpful and very patient. They helped me walk through some computer difficulties.

Toda la informaci3n y apoyo necesarios me fueron facilitados por el equipo de soporte t3cnico.

Helpful in dire syonns to rooms and transportation

There needs to be a way for the help desk (parliamentarians in particular) to slow or stop the moderators when someone has reached out because they completely missed something important. (This happened two times to me and we will live with the consequences at the next experimental GA.)

Other - Write In: Which of these events did you attend? Select all that apply.

Pause

What were riverside conversations. This is the first I heard of them.

White people celebrating Juneteenth feels like cultural appropriation. There, I said it.

Pre-committee dinner together. More each evening would have been helpful, along with more time to build community among our committee members.

I wasn't able to attend Juneteenth Worship, but I was thankful that it was recorded and was able to watch it

Black Presbyterians informational meetings

I regret not participating in Plenary Worship

Self created

watched comm. livestreams

Later watched Juneteenth Worship as during the service my congregation was having a combined celebration.

My church is predominately white and the other church is predominately Black.

alot mor via vimoe .

BIPOC Zoom Call

Closing Plenary

synod level online training

Plenary meeting

All plenaries, all committee meetings, both virtual and in-person.

YAAD meetings

all plenaries

Webinar on Intro to the Moderator Candidates; not 100% sure which Riverside Convos I attended, but a couple of them.

NBPC Pre-GA B&O preparations

Sunday Worship at Central Presbyterian

Juegos con un balón

BIPOC Support Gatherings

Other committee deliberations online

Election of the Co-Moderators

None of the above

Bi-POC and NBPC zoom training, worship and review before going to Louisville

Unofficial debriefings at the hotel bar were less about the alcohol and more about meeting friends of friends, and making new friends. Interesting challenge for Salt Lake.

BIPOC

How can we help improve the training for the utilization for these tools?

I not sure what theywere

I feel that, in theory, they were very important. In practice, however, they didn't work. It was the same people speaking in committee. It was worse in plenary. I tried more than once to speak during plenary, but was never called on, for things that are personally very important to me. It was the same 20 people speaking, most of them either male or white or both. (I am a white, cisgender, bisexual woman.) It's very disheartening to see the same people speak over and over while others are silenced. I don't know what the solution is, but I think we need to

I was not aware they were used at all

I hope to bring these to my Presbytery and session.

I think they were clear enough

Give specific examples of when they might be used.

Honestly, the people who are going to use the training was enough. A training isn't enough to change the thinking or heart of a person who doesn't find value in equity.

NA

N/A

I took the training prior to traveling for committee, but I don't think these were every mentioned in committee. When they were mentioned in plenary, I did not understand how they worked.

Provide examples of how they were used at the 225th GA Committee meetings. Perhaps, provide recorded committee moderators/leadership testimonials about how the Equity Primes were used.

No suggestions.

N/A because I don't recall them being used.

Such tools are good for awareness but in fact they have no power other than to stir the attitude, create a good framework, and act as a guide. Whether a person engages with them or not is very individual. At times it seems as if they were brought out when things were working really well and it felt inauthentic. The best use was as a

Not sure

N/a

Videos ahead of time, and suggested wording for those who are uncomfortable but want to speak up.

Equity primes were mentioned during our committee time but I wasn't clear on what they were. The mention of them did make me conscious of paying attention to people who might be overlooked.

Have a session on the training about Equity primes.

With all due respect the Moderators TALKED really well about equity primes... but it was VERY DIFFICULT to see them actually utilize them. I don't know if they were concerned about keeping things running in a timely manner, or if they just didn't care -- but personally I felt invisible to them. Either they completely ignored me, or my Parliamentary Toolbox didn't work properly. I sought recognition at least FOUR times and only ONCE was I allowed to talk (Plenary Day 1). I tired to second many motions, and they (apparently) couldn't see it. The rest of the time I felt invisible, and consequently of little value. Others however got multiple chances to have their voices heard (one from Alabama in particular). So, in theory, the Equity Primes were a wonderful idea. In

When it came to plenary, it was not as easy to figure out how to utilize our equity primes as it was in committees. I believe, though, that this issue was tied more to tech issues with everything being online than to

No suggestions

I was hoping to see them used as I was thinking they might be useful at lower councils. Maybe some demonstration, a mock meeting.

Introduce earlier.

Expand orientation to others throughout presbyteries, synods and congregations

Not a huge fan of efforts like these. Appear to me as window dressing. These skills are better taught in their Truist forms - empathy, trust, listening, and respect.

I think having more direct communication about them in the meetings. So when someone is speaking more than anyone else in the room, it would be important for the group to process why that is counter to the value. Simply stating them was not sufficient to have some members of the group change their posture. In reality, those who are often not heard will not be the ones to correct behavior. I think Roberts Rules was used as a way around the Equity Primes at times. Perhaps everyone having more substantial training on Roberts Rules would be helpful so that they feel confident speaking in those situations. It also seems like everyone should have opportunities to speak throughout the meeting in introductions or other ways to help break down fears about speaking in groups. This can be done in our Presbyteries so we can start earlier.

I was aware of it through the self training, and I saw someone using one of the tools, but I didn't really see an opportunity for its use during committee.

Being more specific with examples and then actually using them instead of only invoking them when they seemed to fit" the chair's issues.

The training pre-GA was helpful. I would have loved to have the cards pre-printed and shipped to us OR available at registration. Since I was only there for the opening weekend, they weren't readily available for me to pick up. I think having them displayed where everyone can see (especially given the nature of much of our business) would be a good idea. And reminders from moderators through the tougher topics.

I felt they were used to reinforce the committee moderator's decisions. It would have been helpful to ask the members of the committee to consider how best to implement them in the moment or on a case by case basis. To consider who was most impacted, who was being heard or not. The committee was not trusted to make its N/A

We did not use these in EJ Committee

Don't use them.

I really thought it was hard to understand how to use them. Maybe something a little more straight forward or some examples of use in a setting like ours. It was a little lengthy

Make the equity primed known ahead of time.

Introduce them again the 1st day. They were talked about in our pre-meeting ZOOMs but not until the afternoon of the 2nd day were they mentioned in committee.

Again, training exercises that are not just people talking to us. Maybe have us do a multiple choice exercise. No grade / no pass/fail, but more using equity prime tools, how do you think the situation should play out

That was dropped on me during first day of committee work and though spoken about, that was about it. Could not locate anything about them in pc-biz or myga.

The training was sufficient. However, the tools should be utilized in all meetings. I heard some people talk about their neighbors or acquaintances are of different cultures and used that to make their decisions. It was like hearing "one of my best friends is Black", and then think you can speak on behalf of them.

- provide clear examples on how to use them - have committee moderators reference them regularly - make them visible in the room/space where committee or plenary work is happening (something posted on the wall or on the screen that is a constant reminder that they are available).

In my committee, I found myself in a situation that wasn't exactly in line with what was outlined on the card, and so left an issue that was problematic unaddressed. This is totally on me. I should have been more trusting of myself and courageous in voicing my concern. But an explanation that this is a way of being, and if you aren't sure if something applies, check it out with another leader. I still might not have said anything, but maybe? I

Use examples that relate more explicitly to the task at hand with regard to the work of the church.

Consider some role playing examples where they can be demonstrated how to use them effectively.

intro & enact beginning with 1st online (unofficial) committee training to practice its use

A training session devoted to Equity Primes.

Unaware of Equity Prime tools until the last day of committee.

For myself, it's a new framework to work from and, despite having a notecard at my seat, I failed to refer to them and use the equity primes. Having them referenced during plenaries helped keep them in mind, so I think it will become easier as they are used more. Perhaps encouraging lower councils to utilize them may help

This is a case where no amount of training can take the place of doing it hands-on.

Since my committee did not utilize the tools I have nothing to add to this discussion.

More examples on when and how to use. Again, for first-timers, it was not an internalized process.

Help us to not show bias in any way, including age, progressive/conservative, geography.

I honestly do not remember the terminology regarding Equity Primes.

there is always space to improve to discern on the work of holy spirit. but the meeting overwhelmingly organized. Make me very proud to be a presbyterian. meeting Rev. Dr J. Herbert Nelson II give me further hope of good things are coming. my only hope is that we forecast the GA meeting to whom they want to participate

Maybe reminders how to apply them before start of committee work or meetings

Frame all business in that paradigm.

Still not sure what they are. They were mentioned a lot but didn't really see what tools ????

Online training prior to committee meetings.

Unaware of them. Perhaps develop a training module with a special one for chairs

Not sure

Printed cards for each person as a reminder

Equity prime tools could be utilized more everywhere. Just sayin.

More detailed explanation- citing of examples of how we recognize when there is implicit bias.

I'm not sure. My committee did not use them.

The language isn't unfamiliar enough that it was a barrier. I don't think the tools were, but I was surprised how many people in our committee felt hung up on the language. Maybe call them "equity questions" instead of "equity prime"--none of us could figure out why prime and where that came from.

I think printing materials help...

More education on using equity primes, what they are and where to find them in PC-biz so you can access them I was never fully clear on what the equity primes were - it may be that we were taking in information like from a fire hose so good chance that I just missed it.

More real life scenarios might help.

This should come at the beginning of the training for moderators, rather than at the end. Also, some role playing

There should have been a specific training module that mentioned these. When they came up in the first plenary, I had no idea what they were talking about. Then in committee, they weren't printed out and given to us immediately. Someone mentioned them, they were found and referred to, but not really stressed. I was disappointed that they *sounded* like they could be important but weren't actually treated like they were.

consider sample use cases

Ensure Moderators are well-trained and comfortable with when and how to apply them during Committee discussion and disagreements.

I think making sure you have committee moderators that help to uplift them and live them out is vital to how that plays out in plenary. My committee moderators did this very well and for that I'm thankful.

Keep utilizing what has been started and grow the program as needed. Never stop acknowledging the need for My committee may have used them and I was just not aware of it. I think our work went by so smoothly that we did not need or utilize the tool. I could, however, be wrong

You can give individuals a better sense of when is the best time to use them. When they were used, it sometimes felt like they were simply being mentioned but not explained as to why they were necessary for that particular no change, what was done worked fine.

Having it readily available is helpful.

We didn't use them, so I have no input

Designate an equity prime interrupter to have the specific responsibility to notice when equity primes might be at risk. We do this with prayer interrupters at session meetings, which not only gives someone that important responsibility of remembering the need for prayer, but also frees others to feel able to call for prayer more often. I would love to see this training offered at the Synod and Presbytery level - SO helpful! Even ways for Sessions to use them. Honestly, I don't remember if we used it during committee.

The term "prime" first and foremost, what does "prime" mean? I've been some anti-racism and implicit bias work. I've not encountered the phrase "equity prime" elsewhere and seems to be arcane? More than that, we spent time watching videos but when it came to my committee, we would break up into small group work, and at least one commission, a non-English speaker, was left out of discernment since we were not using Zoom and there was no simultaneous translation. If inclusion was the goal, we failed in significant ways. And how exactly were they tools? We did not use them or refer to them in the deliberations of our work. I felt they were "feel good" book ends, but that the core work of committee went on without using them. I think they were misnamed. Be reminded that even little jabs of sarcasm can be seen as cutting to the person who has made a correct action in the meeting. For example, if someone wants to make a motion but it is close to a meal time, then the moderator should not say "well I guess that person doesn't need to eat."

start earlier with introduction to the tools, how they will apply to committee work

First of all, the name is meaningless until it is explained. Equity Prime sounds like a banking term. Secondly, I think discussing these dynamics would be more helpful than laying out principles/rules on a card. And I didn't like the sense that we were encouraged to call each other out--though it never really happened in practice. Other than the commissioner who said that according to equity prime, the unborn should be attended to.

Just continue to keep in front center.

It felt like we read them in plenary and then continued with a fast pace regardless

Our Moderator passed out an Equity Prime card and had us review it at important junctures. Good leadership.

It was a good tool to remind us of equity and inclusion. The problem is that it was also used as a cudgel to cut off conversations about whether an item was wise scripturally or was keeping to principles of good stewardship.

It is difficult to think one is going to change one's default behavior in a short amount of time. But the more these tools can be modeled by moderators, staff and leaders, the better it sets the tone for others.

Presbytery level participation using them so they aren't "new" to people at GA

I needed practical committee/plenary examples in which this tool is used. Some did use it, but I think it needs to be experienced to be helpful.

I'm not sure how to improve it - either you value elements of community practice like this and utilize them, or you don't... I like that our committee came back to them every day, I would encourage that practice of starting the day with them for every committee if they didn't.

I'm not sure that we can at this moment

I liked the training we received around The Equity Primes. I plan on using them with my Session

It would be helpful to introduce these in advance of the committee meetings so that everyone could become familiar with the concepts and understand how best to use them.

Longer would be helpful - more contact makes for easier application

I found it sufficient.

More training

Require a discussion of equity primes on the first day of business for all committees.

More real-life examples of how to use them.

I have to admit that I was unaware of any use of Equity Primes tools. Perhaps I missed the point on them, but I can't say that--until this survey--I didn't understand what they were or that they were being used.

I don't recall the Equity Primes being highlighted as we did our committee work. However, all were treated with N/A

I don't remember hearing about them until the first day of committee work. Would have been more useful during synod commissioner training.

Still didn't feel comfortable bringing up counter-information to incorrect details that were presented as absolute truth in GA plenaries.

It would have been helpful to have a little more information, or to see some role play type scenarios of people using the equity primes so we would know how to use them in different settings. That honestly might have been part of our training and I've just forgotten it by now, but even though we used them in our committee, I know several other committees that never used them and those commissioners had no idea how or when to bring

I do not believe I was given any real training on equity primes. As it was explained to me in committee they are to be used when someone makes a statement they disagree with.

Again, I was an Alternate so perhaps there was a training prior to GA around Equity Primes that I just did not find. If there was not, one would be helpful.

Keep on, keeping on. I am white European descent and I was able to begin understanding my cultural white privilege. I learned to appreciate the very successful work of the committee on representation/nomination. I loved the multicultural multiracial leadership. I constantly celebrated our co moderators and committee chair I needed better training on these. I had to hunt to find training modules and information. Although I fully support the concept, I did not feel that I had enough information or training.

I didn't understand the term or what it meant until several uses later. Rename it to be more user friendly.

one committee member asked how he was supposed to speak to another committee member during the meeting if he had a concern. I think he was hoping to have a list of all email addresses or something. I told him to let leadership know his concern and we could help connect and deal with it

Include some case studies in the training so we better understood how to use these in practice. This would help in providing a broader view of the voices that may not have been heard

I liked that our vice-moderator noticed when some microaggressions occurred and she handled them with firmness and grace. However, I know that it might be hard to notice certain microaggressions when you haven't learned how to spot them. I believe that all moderators should be given the training to spot these

I'm not sure.

I felt like we barely talked about them during training and they sound like a mortgage marketing firm I know what they are and also don't.

The training was very good. Practice, practice, practice! Our committee leadership did a good job of reminding us. I've had several people after GA ask me about these. The entire church needs this!

our moderator helped and knew when it was important to pause our discussion and focus on the Equity Primes never understood what this was. not sure if I missed the explanation.....

Other than "taking a minute to breathe" the Equity Primes didn't play a role in our committee work.

Keep teaching them every time; it is a journey, not a destination.

more practice

Allow for an example of how it should work in committee/plenary

I think the training was fine. I've heard that some committee moderators didn't use them very much. That needs to come from the moderator first so it becomes normal practice for the commissioners.

I didn't see a special training on Equity Prime, but I may have missed it in all the information leading up to GA.

Nothing

Allowing commissioner to see their internal biases

Existen más herramientas que no fueron utilizadas, y debe incluirse trabajo de otras culturas respecto a herramientas. El material es muy anglo respecto a cultura latina a la que pertenezco

The equity prime training seemed to steer us to consider primarily the perspective of anyone who had been injured by anything and we didn't often think about the impact on the rank and file Presbyterians. I didn't see much balance in our debate and decision making.

Not sure

Honestly, I found them a bit condescending and not entirely necessary given the good will and shared values of The EQUITY prime was used as a means for the minority and folks with diversity to squelch or put down the views of others. Essentially, I heard folks stand and say that 'my voice' didn't matter. The forced EQUITY prime never considered the health of local churches. j Decisions were made with absolutely no consideration of the Maybe a daily brief reminder and explanation

To be honest, I did not understand or use them. I don't know that we did so in committee either.

Emphasize that the training is very helpful especially when ensuring all voices in the room should be heard.

Putting more emphasis on these tools ahead of the committee meetings. There was a training segment, but it would be helpful to keep reminding people of the tools throughout the training.

Remember that the commissioners have a wide range of experience of these types of tools.

The term "Equity Primes" was completely unfamiliar to me...and was presented very cursorily. Because I was unfamiliar with the term, it took almost 5 minutes into the presentation for me to make heads or tails of what was actually being suggested: that we stringently adhere to guidelines for save guarding each other's dignity and rights. Better presentation and more examples would have helped me pick up more easily.

If these tools were available, I'm not sure that i was aware of them.

Better onboarding for Commissioners to the GA before and at the start of the GA.

Keep using them, maybe offer commissioners in the coming years examples of how the EQ's were used this year.

Make it a part of the selection process for commissioners.

I think it was great.

I think people just need to be reminded that it is important to give everyone time to process information, particularly those with extra needs or those who are relying on translators. In my committee when things started moving too quickly, occasionally someone would remind us of the equity primes and then we would circle back.

Hay que socializarlas con anticipaci3n

The theoretical background on them is good, but a more practical implementation set of examples would help us be more aware/better able to use them.

Given the nature of the issues Equity Primes are designed to address can not see how they could be improved

The training helped us think more clearly about equity, but we didn't explicitly mention the primes much. Having some practice bringing them up, or a written checklist to stare at on our committee wall might have helped.

N/A

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Provide practical examples for the utilization of these tools applied to the work of every committee.

Introduce them at the general orientation sessions which Mid Councils sponsor, i.e. very soon after Commissioners are elected for service

Not sure. Sorry.

I can't remember when I first heard about them, but it was such a new concept that I think keeping them front and center from the earliest point of contact with commissioners (online and in emails) might help.

I loved the equity prime tool, and using it significantly affected our committee work. 3 things that I think would be helpful: (1) A phrase like "pause, pray, and check in" to go with equity prime when we brought up those questions. Some members in our committee completely understood them, but others weren't entirely clear on the definition of "equity" or "prime," and definitely not "equity prime." Might have been nice to have a simple phrase that we repeated again and again alongside equity prime that was a little bit more common language for those not versed in anti-racism and implicit bias. I suggest "pause, pray, check-in," but I'm sure there are other ways of saying it, too. (2) A little tip to committee leadership about WHEN to use the equity prime. I made a mistake with equity primes that I only realized in retrospect. On a controversial issue we took a motion to call the question, voted to call the question, and THEN used the equity prime. My mistake - our hands were tied by parliamentary procedure at that point. If we'd wanted to hear from different voices or have more debate at that point, we couldn't have because we'd already bound ourselves to call the question. Perhaps on the resources for committee leaders, like the motion chart or the outline of how to receive and vote on motions, a little bubble could say, "Check in with equity prime?" in places where that might be appropriate. (3) Make a separate "equity prime" category of seek recognition on PC-Biz. People often brought it up as "Question" or "Process", but it is more of a point of order, and I think deserves to jump a little higher in the queue than all the many questions on the first day of committee meetings, it would have helped to go over what the Equity Prime tools are, reinforce what they are and how they are important. Perhaps a reminder card or a shorthand reference card or sheet like one we received about parliamentary procedure would be enough and very helpful. That way when EP I felt our moderators could've done a better job integrating use of equity prime tools in our discussions. They were mentioned as an "aside" but not really used as a tool to help slow down discussion - and invite other I believe that the moderators and other officers of the committees be trained in this more and bring it to our attention more often. Our moderator rarely brought it up, if at all. He was not welcoming when people came up multiple times to the microphone. He also would invite people urgently to come up if they had not spoke. It was Make the equity tools part of the pre-conference training.

Moderators could invite and suggest review and use of these more at the beginning of the process.

We referenced these tools (they are great) but did not really use them as our committee was very tuned into equity and a voice for all

I felt that "Equity Primes" was a confusing name, sounded like vocabulary used in financial work. Difficult for me I found the cards we received offensive. I indicated a "neutral" response because I ignored them after I read them and realized what they were for.

Provide copies ahead of meetings, so participants have opportunity to reflect on them

The equity prime tools are only as strong and helpful as the commitment to them of those seeking to use and practice them. The training provided about them was excellent, theologically and Biblically based, and very helpful. Yet perhaps we all needed to spend more time considering the WAYS to put them into practice.

Our committee did fantastic job of listening to one another and including all voices. I think we had all read them and were using them without having to pull the card. They are a great tool

It was very good. In fact, I shared the equity primes with the DEI committee of another organization I am part of.

Include printed cards in the checkin packets.

No suggestions

Keeping them before us is an excellent reminder and holds us all accountable. Even with the best intentions, we need to be reminded of our humanity.

Introduce the equity primes in the general training for GA so that we grow more accustomed to the language and concepts of the equity primes.

I have marked yes, because we did consider equity issues, but in all honesty, I'm not sure whether we used

Help everyone realize that these should also NOT be used to over-use the privilege (i.e., taking too much time or

Have a video explaining them ahead of time so that everyone has the same training and explanation of them

Distribute in print after a couple of "training" sessions. Most new approaches need to be presented more than

Continue to remind commissioners to refer to them as the Moderators did.

Explain what "Equity Primes" are, for one thing. The name of the concepts makes no obvious sense, so it rendered those concepts and guidelines confusing. Was it to "prime" the pumps? Honestly, I think it made the equity primes more trivial than they should have been.

N/A

Use them often in every space and sphere within the church so they become familiar to members throughout the church. This may include training in Synods Presbyterys and congregations.

They were not used to the extent I think OGA expected. I don't think they made any significant difference.

I come from a profession that has spent years working on issues of equity across diversity. Much of this information was familiar. Actually using the practices/applying them in different contexts, is a slow process of growth. Bringing together head, heart and actions is a lifelong process that far exceeds training.

My committee worked very collegiality and our moderators worked hard to make sure all voices were heard so we never found it necessary to go to the equity primes.

No suggestions

I think the Equity Primes tools were very helpful, and I wish they had been used more. The committee leadership seemed to use them only in passing. I was surprised that at least one staff person who spoke to the committee didn't seem to know the difference between "equity" and "equality."

Create committee norms for when/how to consider equity primes. For example, when you take a break revisit the equity primes and follow up with the resource person as needed. It would also be helpful if leaders framed their questions more specifically for response. For example, "Raise your hand if you need more time." Instead of, I'm not sure what Equity Primes tools are.

I think they are wonderful, have downloadable versions for us to take back to our churches.

I only knew about the EP tools because of attending another committee meeting

As a sub Commissioner I missed out on that training, if such a training was offered. Not hard to pick up on the

I think the local presbyteries and congregations need to be made aware of and utilize them.

too much emphasis on these - not really necessary if we don't think about inequities so much

Maybe go through examples?

I think having someone in the room who feels comfortable naming when it could be a useful time to utilize equity primes. I later saw comments on twitter from those watching the livestream that committees should have been utilizing them more. It takes courage to name if voices are not being represented, and sometimes that's

Not sure they were used, unfamiliar

Make sure everyone knows how to locate these items.

Not sure necessary if discussion is well directed

Moderators need to be in better practice of enforcing the practice of Equity Primes

Modeling the use of the primes in examples likely to be encountered in committee.

More guidelines for using/observing them. They seemed to get forgotten at times in both committee and plenary. In plenary, there was not an easy way to request the use of the Equity Prime from the parliamentary

I don't think the training is the issue; rather it is the resistance of commissioners in seeing the importance of these items that is the issue.

I'm not sure training is the issue. I think timing is an issue. When you need it most it's hard to stop and think at

Our committee did not use equity primes at all. In fact, they weren't even mentioned, but I think they would

Honestly, I question the need and usefulness of the equity primes. For the big deal that was made over the equity primes, they were rarely mentioned and not even used in the International Engagement Committee. And they were little used in the plenary sessions. When the equity primes were mentioned or used, they did not influence conversation or debate in any meaningful or helpful way. If anything, they may have discouraged people from talking. If you truly want to improve the training experience, stop focusing on difference and focus more on shared intentionality and experience. It is my hope that the General Assembly will not use the equity

Maybe offer a brief course in how to understand and recognize biases.

Some done in person would be very effective.

I really cannot think of anything else that GA might have done. They trained me well.

Repeating !

n/a

I think it should be stated more clearly by moderators when commissioners have clearly ignored the tools rather than tiptoeing around it

I feel ignorant of this preparation.

Continually review/reinforce key principles and encourage use of tools throughout GA sessions.

Maybe a handout or guidelines with specifics

more verbal explanations

Talk about them more prior to the informal committee gatherings before GA. Maybe include some anecdotal

Other - Write In: What, if any, arrangements did you have to make to participate in General Assembly? Select

None

Take time off of work. Which meant I was not getting income during GA

Only for the in person and only because we made it a family trip, so we had to put my MIL who lives with us into assisted living for the week.. But we got a break from her.

I had to buy a headset. Really, it was no big deal.

use of PTO from employment

I have a home office with good technology, no extra arrangements necessary

I needed nothing special

Nothing

The most I did was purchase a charger for the laptop because I misplaced the one I had when I moved.

Given where I live, it is not possible to arrange for a stable internet connection. I have been teaching online classes with people from around the world and know that it is an elite and privileged assumption

I had to buy some good headphones

Work arrangements

Using technology was not a problem. However, organizing home life around the time demands was a chore. My family's unique situation requires my wife or I to drive our daughter-in-law to and from work and to walk our dogs at certain times. More breaks would have been appreciated.

Just time off for me.

I had to learn to maneuver my new iPad and perform such acts as splitting my screen to be present on zoom and sync simultaneously. I also experienced unusual technology glitches that necessitated using a device provided by the technology support group which was a life saver during committee work.

Arrange for pulpit supply and pastoral care

Work arrangements.

Due to storms, my internet was out for a full afternoon.

I had to IT help with training using split screen until Apple helped me get in my second device.

We had the space and equipment already, all was well.

i had the confidence from the communication before attending the meeting that all the help will be available when i am in the meeting. and it surely was true. God bless all those they put their effort to such a great task.

None as I'm retired and do not have children.

NA

Use a lot of personal vacation time off of my job

Download twitter to get the "feel of the room"

borrowed laptop for committee meetings only

I had to take PTO to be available for the Plenaries.

Managing my work at my regular ministry job--it was a large time investment than I expected, and more than one in person assembly. I had trouble keeping up.

Two monitors

time off from church, particularly two Sundays

Used two weeks of vacation time from work.

Convincing the church that I was not available except in emergencies.

Arranging my educational time/school. Worried about internet outages this time of year.

I had to multitask while plenaries were happening because I wasn't able to give up at-home and at-work responsibilities during GA due to being home.

I was fully set-up and used to the technology

feeding and care of pets and watering plants during very hot spell

None

Nothing

bought some wired earbuds

Had to make sure right equipment would work together and that wifi was not being overused by others in Presbytery Commissioners made arrangements to be in the same room for plenary. This was EXTREMELY helpful A place where we could meet as a Presbytery to attend the online plenaries

I had to spend many hours in my church office, away from home, since my children are young. It would have been hard for me to fully focus and participate otherwise. This definitely created tension since I was in town, but unavailable to my family for great lengths of time.

Nothing really

None other than making arrangements to be away from my job.

Since I sometimes lose internet access for days at a time, I had made arrangements to use physical space at the church where I worship and to use their wi-fi. Fortunately, I did not have to avail myself of that option. As mentioned before, it was only on the first morning of our in-person committee meeting, that it was discovered that my personal laptop computer could not be properly connected for use during the committee meetings.

Keep camera off to ensure enough bandwidth to not freeze and drop Zoom connections as well as meeting tools multiple devices - one for viewing and one for working

I had a power outage and had to travel to an alternate location

I had to use vacation and find a place where I was not interrupted.

None

I had NO issues with the plenaries or worship services. Issues with technology during committee work was covered in my response to the Help Desk question above.

time away from work

I had to adjust my sleep schedule and my family's morning routine (including having my husband go to work later so that he could take my son to childcare instead of me)

I had to commit 2 weeks of PTO, but I'm privileged in that I have that option and capacity.

N/A

Sometimes had to miss sessions due to doctor appointments; pastoral needs and just fatigue

All went well

No hice acuerdo alguno.

None apply

back support

Signs at work and personal safety due to LATE 12 hour zooms while I serve an urban downtown church

I did not have to make arrangements.

My Presbytery hosted us in a conference room. Excellent.

n/a

clear my calendar

I had to rent a hotel room because my home/church space AND internet access were so poor care of Grsnddog

I had to make arrangements with work so that I could still make money

I took off 2 1/2 weeks of work and school in total

Organizar tiempo y recurso para atender la iglesia durante la Asamblea

Had to take a lot of time off work, and I still wasn't able to attend all of plenary

caregiver for pets.

I had to arrange for a substitute for my Sunday responsibilities due to my need to travel to the committee

My computer at times was barely able to manage the multiple concurrent tasks sometimes required. A newer computer would have helped.

N/A

Take off work

Travel to Synod gathering

Had to leave family vacation early. Would prefer to have committee work and then maybe a month before plenaries that would then allow a period for long-scheduled family vacation.

purchased phone hotspot as backup ISP

I had to purchase a streaming device for my hearing aids. It didn't work properly, and the techs figured out a way for me to hear with my blue tooth hearing aids.

I had to make extensive arrangements with volunteers from our congregation to do the things I normally do each week so I could fully participate in GA.

re arrange a room and learn split screen and double monitor. new skills

None of these apply to me

I had to make arrangements for a meal to be delivered when the meal break was shortened.

Was an alternate that was activated and had to rearrange family vacation time

No aplica

I had to set aside 3 weeks of time initially before I found out which committee and date I would be scheduled for. This eliminated many off the people in my Presby who would consider being commissioners.

Caregiver arrangements for care for my dog.

None of the above

Had to travel from the Middle East

I had to arrange my schedule to ensure responsibilities were completed or covered during my time away.

Creating time to do the work as well as possible

Why did you exclude work? Do expect everyone in PCUSA is retired and doesn't have to make arrangements to take vacation or get off work, probably unpaid.

No special arrangements

My presbytery provided a location. I just had to bring my own tablet and phone.

People to cover for me at work

Had all I needed

My internet was spotty

TSAD had to miss classtime

Brought old laptop (with dead speakers) to plenary; used new laptop for plenary. The need for a better laptop for GA got me motivated to replace my nine-year old laptop, and I was blessed to have the resources.

Changing my email was problematic. It slowed my access into My GA by a few weeks. That slowed my training

Forgo or share with a colleague

I had all that I needed & all that was required.

I had to board my two dogs, and since I was in group 1 it was for 6 nights. Also I am phobic about crowds, so I made my own plane reservations so I could fly first class, which of course I paid for myself.

Cancel two music jobs, kake arrangements for my cat while I was gone.

none

I bought a new laptop for PC-Biz because my iPad was used for my hearing assistance.

Had to make arrangements to have people lined up to cover my job while away and during the long days of

I had to make arrangements to have my husband travel with me since I had surgery one month prior.

Other - Write In:What language did you use with the Onboard interpretation feature?

Used translation from Spanish to English option

I used it to view English subtitles for Spanish

I used the translation feature for Spanish and Korean speakers.

Unclear what you're asking. The language that I listened in? Or had interpreted? I used interpretation of Spanish and Korean into English.

Used translations into English.

Other - Write In:At the 225th General Assembly, the Assembly Committee on Environmental Concerns was moderated in Spanish. How did you find this experience? Select all that apply.

The close caption enabled me to understand

The interpreter did great. Doesn't hurt to have to listen a little more carefully every now and then.

Really, it was in Spanish? I don't remember that. Must have been very good translation!

This was an incredible way to welcome more diverse voices into leadership.

I did not serve on that committee.

I didn't attend this.

I was not in this committee

I speak and understand Spanish somewhat and enjoyed it. There were other languages and I would like to know what they are while hearing them and the translation.

The Vice Moderator (English speaker) played a far more prominent role in moderating the meetings. I do not now if this was because of the language or because of another reason. I wanted to hear the Moderator lead more than he did, but I was not disappointed with the experience.

I did not participate in the environmental.

It is what it is. I listened to interpreter and it was ok.

"Whose"

I'm so glad this happened!

I wish the Zoom written interpretation was larger

not familiar enough to comment

N/A

I wasn't in that committee. I have no opinion

Good inclusion, but I want most of the presentation in English.

Not my committee

N/A

It was fine

Neutral. If it didn't hamper the committee time for the business, no reason to not have non-English primary language moderators in the future

I found it fine. Nothing big either way.

I had problems figuring out how to use interpretation

I did not observe this committee

I heard double voices with my earbuds

I was a Spanish major in college, so I have some (low) residual skills remaining. But I must admit, I wondered if it was done as a teachable moment, or whether the chosen moderator was truly the best person for the specific

N/A

Not used

I think it was fine but it added another level of confusion to an already confusing GA

Moving.

Was not there

Not apart of the committee

I was not on that committee

I was not in that committee

not on this committee

Not my committee

I did not participate in the Committee on Environmental Concerns

I did not understand a word of what was said. The interpretation did not come through on my laptop until the

I was not in this committee

This was awesome!

I was not on that committee so I do not have a comment on committee report. The reports to GA via interpreter were not a problem.

I thought it was very inclusive and we should do more of this.

It was fine.

It broadened our perspectives.

NA

Felt connected to my heritage

Not in this committee, so my experience was limited to plenary presentation

Clearer instruction about switching to the English translation in Zoom ahead of that time would have been

I felt it undermined its intention as the moderator handed off most of the responsibility of moderating to our Vice Moderator.

It was a fabulous experience!

NA, however I feel we should make every effort to include non english speakers comfortably.

Other - Write In:At the 225th General Assembly, the Assembly Committee on Environmental Concerns was moderated in Spanish. How did you find this experience? Select all that apply.

No puedo opinar , fui el moderador

What else can the denomination do to assist your language needs?

Apoyar con fondos que ofrezcan un servicio de excelencia. Esta reuni3n tuvo un alto grado de nivel de calidad. Escogi3 buenos int3rpretes en espa3ol. Excelente

Encontr3 que la traducci3n fue pobre. Los conceptos claves y t3cnicos como stated clerk, session, etc, eran traducidos literalmente, lo que creaba confusi3n. No conoc3an los conceptos secretario permanente o consistorio. Finalmente prefer3- escucharlo todo en ingl3s, para no distraerme tratando de cuadrar los conceptos en mi mente y a3adir lo que se les quedaba sin traducir, aunque aprecio y agradezco el esfuerzo.

Mantener los diversos idiomas es importante el idioma materno sobre todo cuando se discuten temas muy a
Some translation on the overtures were more difficult. It seemed that they were done through the google

Other - Write In (Required):What was the most meaningful experience of this year's General Assembly for

People interaction

YAAD Gatherings

Networking and the work that we did together.

My time with my colleagues in Louisville.

Meeting with new people in our off time and building relationships

I can't pick one. The whole experience was truly meaningful.

The issues were critically important and I was glad to have the opportunity to consider them. The process was extremely frustrating and disillusioning. Having been to a previous GA I know that the discernment and enjoyed committee work, enjoyed most of the plenaries, enjoyed learning more about our denomination, but enjoyed most meeting other Presbyterians

It was all amazing and meaningful!

All of the above. The most rewarding was in person with my fellow sisters and brothers in the faith as I got to know and love them. Relationships help us understand each other and the world better.

I found it all to be meaningful

Hanging out with new people both in person and in the twitter verse. I saw perspectives that would never have

Face to face meeting with others.

meeting and serving w/people I didn't know and seeing old friends for the first time in a long time

all of it

I was very moved by all of the worship services, including the Juneteenth worship. I was somewhat frustrated in being able to speak during committee time (since I didn't know to use the I-pads which were totally new to me) and during plenary time, since a lot of the same people seemed always to be called on to speak.

BIPOC and YAAD meetings

Revs Miguel and Aaron led the Environmental Justice Committee with faith and competence!

too many to single one out

Our Synod made arrangements for Presbyteries to meet together. I liked that arrangement

Lunch fellowship at Louisville

For me it was the whole experience, how we came together in person during the first week for plenary 1 and then Juneteenth worship set the tone for the rest of my experience. I can't imagine only experiencing those first two days virtually then having to wait before coming to in-person committee meetings. I did not find the 12-day Learning more about what exactly GA is, why it's important and how our National church and local work can be Connecting with other commissioners, in person during my committee work, and then even across the distance as we participated in the online plenaries.

Having good news to bring back to my congregation and presbytery. Personally, I went from lament to hope.

Moderators election process

ALL of the above were very meaningful to me.

All of the above and all of the new people that I met during meal times

Tiempo en Comit  y Plenarias

All of the above were equally meaningful

There is no element that can stand alone, all work together to make the transformational experience.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit to move a group to consensus. Happens at every GA I have observed! Also, Juneteenth Worship but this form only allows for one choice.

meeting and breaking bread with others

Why did say your engagement increased?

It increased mostly- in the sense of being in-person for the committee work-

I was asked to present resolutions and to serve as a resource person.

Gained more knowledge. Level of comfort increased.

Because I felt more responsible and connected with fellow Advisory Delegates and Commissioners

Comfort level increased with use of Pc-Biz

I'm becoming more familiar with the process. At GA223 I felt like a rank beginner.

Because you had more to do.

TenÃ­a otras situaciones econÃ³micas que me desconcentraban un poco.

I was nervous at the beginning and as I got to know people and understand the IOBs and procedures better I was more comfortable participating.

As myself I was in the committee of addressing violence in the USA, I learned more things which are happening in America and I committed myself to help people in my country and elsewhere as a peacemaker.

The first time I attended GA my role was a volunteer and for 225th GA my role was a commissioner.

Al tener una responsabilidad mayor y estar presencial en comitÃ©s estuve mÃ¡s motivada.

I will admit that at first I was not too enthusiastic on attending General Assembly. I had a lot of anxiety at the beginning of the event. However, I found it more interesting and fun over time so I increased my engagement.

Not an alternate

Much more time required to prepare for both committee and plenary. To be ready, every overture to be presented in both was read and notes/questions annotated.

I was increasing able to understand, anticipate and became more sure of what I was doing. Certain issues I did not have strong opinions on, so I did more listening, and voting as I felt the leading of the Holy Spirit.

My engagement increased as the last two weeks I was personally engaged: I attended my committee meeting in person the last week in Louisville where I was fully able to participate and the on-line plenaries.

I was the alternate commissioner in 2020, so my level of involvement and engagement was less.

It was a new experience for me. The more I gained confidence and understanding the more my engagement

I am speaking for the FIN comity for the coherent organized and discern on the work of holy spirit that worked

I was still working during the spring and found it difficult to keep up with the trainings. Once I retired it became easier. Also I was nervous at the beginning of committee work and was hesitant to engage. As the week went on

Getting to know people and hear their concerns

I got in a rhythm and had others praying for me

I am quiet by nature. But did feel the need to speak at times. However, as the in-person and virtual time

increased I found folks with whom I am compatible with socially and spiritually. I encouraged people who had

I was motivated by the diverse items of business, the responses of the commissioners and the young adult advisory delegates, the skill of the parliamentarian, the brilliance of the co-moderators, and the knowledge of

Better and continued understanding of the workflow and issues discussed.

The level of the discussion was stimulating.

Early on, I was unsure of the process; became more aware of how to access background info as discussion of

The first four times I went to General Assembly as an observer. The fifth time I went to General Assembly as an Overture Advocate. This time I went to General Assembly as a commissioner.

As the conference progressed, we discussed issues I cared more about.

I was motivated by the Team energy and conversations with other MAD's during plenary

Because I became more confident with the whole process, discussion and content.

I felt not only myself but those involved became more acquainted with each other as the days increased and we all felt truly like brothers and sisters working together.

The more we discussed topics, the more I realized how important some of the conversations were and getting the opportunity to hear from people from all around the country was really helpful for me because I could see

Being surrounded in-person by my committee enhanced the communal aspect of GA and made me feel more motivated to participate, engage, & value committee work. Also, meeting other YAADs was so meaningful and I found the committee work to be very exciting and engaging. The engagement and encouragement for everyone to participate was exceptional.

I attended the first Assembly when I was in seminary in 1995 and all I did was work in the copy room making copies, so I really didn't see or take part in the assembly. This time I was much more involved.

This being my first GA, it took a few hours in my first day of committee work to feel comfortable. Smooth sailing from then on. My Co-Moderators were excellent in their management of committee work and sensitivity to the there was so much to read ahead of time to prepare for the other committees in plenary, and to understand what each committee would present. My own committee had lots of reading also, plus all the training required, There was no committee work in 2020, so I was more involved in the plenary that had to do with the committee As a first timer, at first everything was new to me. But, my siblings in the committee and the explanation received from each presenter during the plenaries helped my understanding, which facilitated my engagement.

I participated in good measure during Committee work. I believe I made most votes during Plenary. Did not get the opportunity to speak. Tried several times. Usually others voiced my concerns, so my voice was not essential.

I began with an hour/day about 3 times a week of reading and training when the overtures and training were available. June, I was reading/preparing 2 hours/day most every day. During Committee worked 8-5p and training online was here and there, and then traveling for plenaries was full-time, but even plenaries only lasted from 8:30am-5pm, and the online GA experience was 8am-8pm PST... so it increased on the literal time

I had several times to address the assembly

I-pads I were totally new devices to me, so I was not able to figure out how to use them in time to participate speaking as much as I really, really wanted to. During the plenaries, I was not called on on several issues that I was more comfortable with the people around me, the moderators and the process.

Because I didn't know what I didn't know. I was fascinated by it all and can't wait to be more involved if given the opportunity. The whole experience was such a blessing to me.

I became more familiar with the language and process which made me feel more comfortable.

Had to be on ZOOM for full GA. More time than committee.

My voice was heard and I was encouraged to speak my truth.

The ability to observe committee meetings when I was not meeting. "Attend" is a confusing term in this context. I was not a commissioner to the 224th GA but I watched the entire plenary/s via the livestream and PC-

Became more comfortable with the technology and terminology

I began to understand more fully my committee's role in the decisions we make.

found my passion

I enjoyed my time in committee meetings but became even more engaged in plenary as I got to hear about what all the other committees did and the passionate debate some of the items led to.

I requested to speak or make motions more as I became more comfortable with the system. I was never allowed to speak, which was very very frustrating, but I tried.

As we moved through the business of plenary, I felt more energized with some of the decisions that were being made and found myself eager to get to the next thing after each vote.

I began to understand what I was doing, and the process, a little better. It definitely created a spark!

Committee meetings

I was unsure of the reception of an EAD voice in the decision making and wanted to hear the voices of the PCUSA but I do appreciate having a voice in the process.

I was able to participate in the Worship Team for one day of INT committee meetings. It was very meaningful.

Learning more about the issues; becoming more comfortable.

This time I was a commissioner.

I felt energized and engaged.

Coming in, I didn't really know what to expect but as I got more involved in committee meetings I became more passionate about what we were doing and became more engaged

As I learned more, I was better able to participate.

I started to use my voice more and more over time and I made connections

Me sentí muy motivada con todos sus componentes: preparación previa, la adoración, el trabajo en el

I was interested to hear what other committees were doing.

I became more comfortable!

Las decisiones que se toman en una asamblea son importante para la vida de las congregaciones y hay que estar comprometido para empujar ciertos temas.

There were two or three other events happening on the opening weekend of the GA. I kept on looking for others who were also attending and could not find any. After the weekend I was able to interact with my peers

I needed to ramp up my engagement to keep up!

Unable to be fully engaged in the first three plenaries, those three are very important in explaining the entities of the PCUSA and the work of the committees which followed. So I entered the committee time with a need to I saw that I could have an impact!

Changed role from advisor to commissioner.

After 2020's Assembly, I was uncertain about how the 2022 Assembly would go, so I was hesitant to get very excited. After being part of the committee work, I was more fully on board.

The importance of discussions about equity, representation; seeing leaders of color making significant impact; seeing alignment, personally to mission & work of National church; also to see alignment at our presbytery & my Began to understand how things worked and felt comfortable with the processes used.

As I became more familiar with the process, I was able to be more confident in participation.

In 2016 I was a volunteer since it was held in my area. I volunteered for and engaged with several events. In 2020 I viewed all the plenaries online but had no voting engagements...I just viewed. In 2022 I served as a

I was taking notes throughout the entire process. This involves paying close attention to everything that is being said and what is shown on the computer screen all at the same time.

I was engaged online for training, reading information on PC-Biz, etc. I became more active as a committee member during committee meetings in Louisville. I became more active still online through the GA plenary,

I was diagnosed with Covid the day I was to fly to Louisville for committee. Therefore I could not attend but could listen to my committee. I could not participate. I was able to participate and vote in Plenary which I did.

By nature of the schedule -- our committee work seemed very light, but the Plenary work was exhausting (maybe the technology interface) and very heavy work.

I had multiple responsibilities. I received a lot of support as a resource person and once that work was concluded, I could focus completely on my committee's work, though technology allowed me to do both at I was not sure what to expect, so I started out more tentative.

I came down with COVID after returning from committee meetings in KY. So I had multiple doctor's appt during the first day of the large assembly online.

I realized that I needed to know more about the OGA and the IOB. So spent more time reading/reviewing I saved most of my preparation time until the weeks prior.

Was feeling a little overwhelmed at first but became very comfortable as time went on

I not only sat on a committee as a MAD, but I also resourced a committee, and spoke before that committee, as It was difficult at first to start with long distance Plenaries and work, but as I grew more comfortable with the technology, I was able to spend more time.

We did a lot more work during the 225th than we did during the 224th. Also, I really enjoyed the in-person

I was co-moderating the plenaries

As a first timer, I found the entire experience to be quite interesting and challenging. There was so much

The movement of the Spirit among the debate increased my engagement.

Because I was a Commissioner.

Understanding how I could contribute was a learning experience. The more I learned, the more I realized how I could contribute. Also, most of the amendments were very interesting and meaningful.

Because I was a commissioner in 2020, I came in more comfortable than I would have been otherwise speaking before the assembly. I was part of offline conversations and grassroots discussions about overtures that led me. My engagement increased over time because once I got a feel for my responsibilities I was more and more intrigued about the items of business.

A group of members within the committee formed a connection during the in-person meeting. We communicated throughout the plenary with support, discussion, and personal sharing that energized and. Once you got to know the people you shared the room with and those near you it became easier.

I realized how important it was to give more time to understand everything I could about the business of the General Assembly. To be more engaged meant to be more present for the Spirit to move in my participation. I became more relaxed with the process, the people and the issues at hand.

In person meeting gave me more opportunity to be engaged.

The more fellow attendees I met/interacted with at meals and break times, the broader my understanding of. The beginning of the process is a lot of reading and preparation, but once you are doing committee work, your soul and prayers go into the work, then you continue to have vote/voice over even more committees' work. For plenary, our presbytery's commissioners stayed at a hotel with another presbytery's commissioners. This was very helpful as we could still discuss things and ask each other questions during plenary.

We lost our vice-moderator for the committee, so, the work load increased. It was not bad, just more things to. As I interacted via the internet, I became more comfortable and my confidence increased.

As I got to know other committee members my comfort level went up making engagement easier.

The committee experience was prepared and presented at the plenary session. And I got an opportunity to speak for a recommendation of other committee.

This was my first General Assembly, so I first wanted to observe and gain a better understanding of the processes. Over time, I felt more comfortable and confident participating.

En esta ocasi3n fui invitado como delegado ecum3nico. La anterior solo como invitado.

I became mor comfortable with the zoom process.

Because I was more and more frustrated with the process and I tried to find ways to make the process (particularly in the plenaries) work. I was not successful.

Why did you say your engagement decreased?

The zoom became painful in my body- ever time I turned it on my entire body tensed and even spasmed. It was too long for too many days. It was physically agonizing.

I found the Zoom hours grueling. I found Friday to be the hardest part for me emotionally. I was tears.

Debating and voting over one word, i.e., "honorably" didn't strike me as a plenary agenda. The long stretch of the daily routine on screen was exhausting. When selecting a moderator, please find someone whose voice Bess very active and called upon several times in the early plenaries. I knew they were looking for a diversity of Sessions were frustratingly long the first 2 days. 12 hours is too long to listen to people nit-pick. Co-mods eventually figured out how to move things along, but damage was done. Tech issues didn't help, especially The last day was quite a bit of wasted time with people trying to retread what we had already decided.

I felt like some processes, including PC-Biz and the buzzer for speakers, did not work well and wasted time that could have been used in debating the overtures.

Going from the in-person committees to the online plenaries decreased my engagement. It was hard to stay engaged with the demands of home and job. I am not as comfortable speaking on zoom.

I was in the first group to be in Louisville. The week off between my time in Louisville and the plenaries caused me to lose momentum... and it was very difficult to get back "on board" when it was time to start plenaries.

A combination of: 1) Zoom fatigue; 2) Needing time to gather myself when speakers accused the Assembly of not caring about or trying to silence different groups of people when they disagreed with a vote; 3) Tech glitches Meetings that run late into the night continuously run into the problem of getting unproductive. I am too tired to process well, and that was abundantly clear of my colleagues as well. I was fresh in the mornings.

Because the committee moderators were not skilled or motivated to include interaction between members, I disengaged in the committee. Lack of reliable internet and amount of time sitting and waiting for it--I disengaged

The extremely long hours and having plenary online made it harder to engage. I would have been more engaged if it had been in-person for the entire plenary.

Most interested in the plenary examination of the overtures from my Committee. Less interest and less time to Debates and commissioners were one-sided. Our congregation has lost its balanced voice. Even the Stated Clerk spoke in a video saying, "We are a liberal denomination." That is appalling.

I had a medical emergency on Wed of Plenary. Once discharged from the ER, I had to participate online from a different location and was still hurting, but still it went well. I only missed voting on Wednesday.

Zoom fatigue kicked in

In committee I spoke more than I anticipated because I was largely a minority (or only) voice on some issues that were very important to me. During plenary I spoke a little, but mostly was texting with my fellow MADs as we

Although I attended 100% of the committee and plenary sessions, my participation in the worship services during GA dwindled as I needed time each morning to take care of daily life activities, figuring I can watch the I had to turn off my video and walk away many times. Being on screen for that length of time was brutal.

In plenary was too hard to get a motion in quick enough and all questions were not answered

I contracted COVID while in Louisville and I was sick all week. In zoom I did not use my camera because I looked horrible, and I tended to join in a bit late due to sleeping issues.

Say debates. Same wordsmithing Same people called on.

I contracted Covid and was sick during the meetings on Friday and Saturday. I stayed engaged as much as possible but there were times that I had to log out of the meeting to rest.

The online format was draining. I kept voting, but I was having a hard time just sitting and listening. I was mowing my lawn and listening as the GA closed because I just couldn't sit in my kitchen for a moment longer

I have a chronic illness, arthritis in my sacroiliac joints. I simply could not sit for such long periods without a physical cost. The longer the assembly the harder it was to focus on the screen, being amongst people who were I was unable to be engaged the last day and a half for personal reasons.

As an advisory delegate, my vote didn't count during the final plenaries so I was more engaged during my committee meetings as my vote counted in that context.

It was hard to justify listening to presentations about information that wouldn't impact my decisionmaking as a commissioner. There were chores to be done at home and emails to answer at work, and meals with family I was far more engaged in the committee work in person. I found it hard to contribute and at times felt like my participation would not be valued or seen as necessary in plenary.

The plenaries were 14 hours on Zoom. This was brutal. The moderators kept recognizing the Alabama guy & the YAAD from Albany. Lots of people were not heard. There was not enough debate & it was clear to me that I was more engaged in the in-person committee meetings. It was not as easy to be a participant over Zoom with close to 500 people in the plenary meetings.

50+ Zoom hours without enough substantial breaks was a lot.

The plenary meeting were grueling

the online plenaries were overwhelming due to the number of hours we had to be online

Plenary sessions were overly-long and cumbersome. Being online on Zoom for that amount of time is difficult and tedious. I followed along during everything but there were times when I thought that time was being

Fluctuated is more accurate. Plenary became tedious by late Wed. as commissioners nitpicked recommendations. Thursday's earlier adjournment allowed me to recharge. Leadership's message to trust the I have a life. Zoom meetings of 500 participants makes too easy step out. Note that I was a corresponding member so I was not required to be present (cm as a committee moderator)

I am battling ocular cancer and had to go to doctor appointments in the mornings so I missed a bit Thursday morning and Friday morning- especially as the plenary began earlier on Friday than originally expected.

Political agendas backed by confirmation biased stories and facts were provided as incontrovertible truths during plenaries and throughout GA 225. Felt counter points to temper debate would be received as an attack,

By the end of the plenary days it was difficult to follow along and stay engaged. It's hard to stay focused when sitting in front of a computer for 11 hours or more.

I fully expected to attend each and every session- worship, plenary, hands and feet. But as the days wore on I knew that I wasn't going to be able to fully present with each thing. So I multi tasked- I did dishes while attending

It was clear from committee to planetary that my participate was not welcomed or wanted. Being called a racist just because I'm white is wrong. Being told I'm "suspect" because I was not willing to apologize for

It was virtually impossible to spend that much time on ZOOM. 11 hours?? Not healthy. Would have preferred Time management in plenaries was uneven and important items not being discussed enough. Too many presentations at the beginning, Task force members were given too many opportunities to talk at the expense of Suffered 'zoom-itis'

The Assembly chose to alter the times of the plenary sessions which made it nearly impossible for me to continue participating at the same level due to time zone differences.

Very very time consuming. The GA was drawn out over too many days. Family responsibilities made it very hard Zoom fatigue. Zoom does does not allow one to fully engage in the work of the plenary.

the time required conflicted with other commitments that were immovable.

It was hard to stay engaged during plenary, in part due to the fact that it was remote and in part because I didn't have the depth of understanding that I did with my committee work.

This was a spiritually depleting experience. This was isolating and beyond rigorous. The pace was unsustainable. The irony of telling us 'we care about self=care' and then having us zoom daily for more than 10 hours is sheer matters of importance in home congregation

Weariness from the amount of tedious business The business often seemed to be not so relevant to church life. mental, emotional, and physical fatigue increased along the way

I had Covid-19 for the committee meeting that I chair.

Day two I was eager to speak. I was called on, but we were on a secondary amendment, so I had to decline to speak. I was not called on, back at the main motion; instead we went straight to a vote. Caused me to wonder I was having to juggle working at a summer camp and trying to attend online sessions during my breaks. This was very difficult, and eventually some stuff came up with my campers that required my full attention.

I found the moderator of my group to be too presumptive in calling an end to questions, comments, etc. It seems that too much emphasis was on getting things done on time rather than looking at the big picture.

Had to travel on one day during plenaries.

Several of the same speakers at the plenary sessions were called on too often. Some of them were not prepared, off point on their comments, or were frankly, very peculiar. I started to tune them out until an actual vote was It was harder when I got home to fully engage in online plenary, just because of family and home responsibilities.

Unexpected responsibilities came up that I had to address. Plus, the discussions were lengthy.

Hybrid General Assembly required a MUCH bigger time commitment than in-person. In the final days, I took breaks for work, family, and fatigue. In-person assemblies were 10 intense days, including travel). This Assembly I tested positive for Covid-19 when I returned from my committee meetings which were the week before the plenaries. Therefore I was unable to attend all the plenaries. However, when I was feeling better I attended the The Zoom plenaries were frustrating and it felt like items were rushed through without due discussion. Towards the end, it felt like people just wanted it to be over.

To many hours of sitting and concentrating. My brain gave out.

I was more verbally engaged in the committee work. I was trying to save space for others in the GA plenaries due to the amount of people. I also was pleased our committee youth spoke up and that gave me reason to give The days were too long and I was tired of being tied to the computer.

I felt the plenary sessions were rushed. I understood that we had a lot of material to be completed, but there were times when the moderators' equipment did not keep up and comments and questions were ignored. For It was too easy to do something else since plenaries we're not in person.

I was vice moderator of my committee during the committee time so kept very busy and then during the the plenaries took way too long and got bogged down.

At the end of those 12 hour zoom days I was fried. Especially after 4 days, I was done.

I had to work so my husband was the alternate for the plenary times.

somewhere during the plenary sessions, I had "out of the country" company arrive so my time was split

Too long hours on Zoom with no human interaction

I did not feel all voices were truly heard.

The online plenary last week was long and I had other interruptions. We need to meet in person and plan all GA around a one week commitment.

After hour 6 or so most days, I felt like we needed to have a longer zoom break. That being said, the only time I had to leave a plenary early was on July 9. and even that I listened to via the zoom feed.

I think by the last day or two, having been on a screen all day for several days in a row took a toll. I was feeling more stir crazy, I was tired of sitting, and was even feeling somewhat lonely.

Why did you say your engagement stayed the same?

I fulfilled my responsibility of being elected as a commissioner from my presbytery and engaged with the I was highly engaged during committee work, and I tried to stay highly engaged during the plenary sessions. I tried very hard to remain engaged, especially during plenary. I find zoom to be very difficult and think that by I did not actually speak or submit any amendments as my thoughts were expressed by others and saw no reason I was fully invested in participating.

It ebbed and flowed a bit throughout, but I felt very engaged with what was going on. Having a group chat with other commissioners was very helpful.

Since I was a vice-moderator of a GA committee, I was heavily invested in my committee's work, and then in presenting my committee's report to the plenary. Then, at plenary, I became engaged in the key items of Each item under consideration had implications for local churches and mid-councils, particularly presbyteries.

I was totally engaged in my committee work and did not miss any time. For the online components, I only missed the Juneteenth service and that only because it conflicted with my own church's service, at which I am there was some ebb and flow depending on the topic/ committee, but over all it was all important and I felt a duty to stick with it.

I was engaged from the beginning and did my best to stay engaged.

I was equally engaged in both

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet in person for the committee work and was eager to see how the committee work we accomplished was viewed in the plenary and I was also very interested to see the work of I maintained interest and excitement

I came into the process with a strong understanding of delegate assembly work. This followed that course of I think that I maintained the same level of engagement throughout. I do have a three year old so I was not able to fully engage at all times when she wasn't at school.

I was invested in my in person time as much as my online time. It was generally 12 hour days in person and plenary, and about 4 hours when I was watching remote committees in my off week

I felt very engaged throughout the whole experience. That being said, as with all humans, my ability to focus waned in and out, but I stayed fairly consistently engaged. The most difficult part for me, was observing the I was called to be a commissioner and was committed to carry out that responsibility

I tried to stay engaged throughout the process. The waxing and waning of engagement remained consistent during the time I was there. It was easier to stay engaged while in person in the committee meetings

I was just as focused on the work from the first day to the last.

very confusing to take a portion in two places and keep up with what was going on on the floor at the same time I

I was not able to engage in Plenary. I was not acknowledged or called on when submitting questions or motions.

Although my engagement stayed the same, the level of effort required to do so increased. Spending over 10 hours on computer monitors without outside interaction really was hard. I feel the need for a screen detox!

This was not my first General Assembly, so I knew what to expect.

Each segment of the assembly was equally as important and required equal attention. However, experiencing exhaustion made it difficult to concentrate at late hours.

I came to 225th GA excited and ready to participate. That did not change, I was prepared for the hard work and

I was interested in the issues presented and I made a commitment to do my best and follow the spirit where it I committed to participating in this work & did my best to take it seriously. While my flight was cancelled, causing me to miss the opening plenary, I was still able to participate fully online, arriving in time for Juneteenth

I did my best to prepare myself for the committee meetings by reading the overtures. Likewise, I tried to study the overtures for each plenary, but it would have been easier if I had known which ones would be with which

From our in-person engagement in committees, to the virtual environment, I stayed connected to the work as well as the people involved in our in-person sessions. Except perhaps, late, late at night.

Because I listened the entire time but didn't get many of my questions answered nor could I express my

I liked each part and voted 100 percent of the time.

I classify myself as a GA Junkie. I have followed Live Streaming of sessions since the early 2010's. I follow along on Twitter comments at the same time.

It was just wild being thrown into a whole new world of the church, especially with fellow first timers. The work connected to the local level surprisingly. The resource persons were so smart and knowledgeable. How could

Once I committed to participate, I was engaged and committed to the Assembly.

there were ups and downs, but I remained online for every plenary session

What I would have had to say would have been regarded as meaningless

I thought the Plenary was tough because they were so long, and being at your computer you could always find other things to do online. I noticed that the number of people voting seemed to decrease each day, and I wanted

I was aware of the commitment required and scheduled accordingly

I was active in my committee and the online plenary sessions. I didn't miss any meeting times.

I had support in chat groups and Twitter feeds to help follow along.

I wanted to be present for the main resolutions and appreciated how the moderators handled the stress of time

Because I was committed to the process and my responsibility as a commissioner

I was excited about the work, feeling and watching the Holy spirit move within the Committee and individuals reminded me that God is still working in and through our/my life.

I came into the assembly with a clear plan for moderating my IOBs in committee and for participating in plenary

Because it actually fluctuated up and down, depending on the current debate or topic on the floor. We

strong engagement from the beginning

I did not miss a vote, plenary, committee meeting - I was at everything but Hands & Feet (only because of a

I suppose that my engagement varied based on the subjects of discussion. Interest waned when there were amendments to amendments to amendments, varying one word or phrase. There was a lot of time wasted on

It took this GA experience end to end to understand flow, re-arguing decisions already made, work thru frustration in my Committee dynamics & ineffective Moderator Idrship, & finally see/trust good Committee

Hay muchas cosas que todavia necesitamos entender para poder decidir perfectamente, si se pudiera.

I came to be involved and committed to the work even though I feared my voice would not be heard. I remained

I was engaged in the beginning as this was something new and my level remained the same as there were particular items of business I was interested in as the days went on.

I fully participated as a commissioner

Because I was used to the process from 2 years ago and found it to be consistent throughout this meeting.

While not every moment of GA was exciting, just being a participant in GA as it seeks to discern God's will for the present & future of the PC(USA) is both an honor and privilege which I feel warrants our full attention &

because it did i was full on from start to finish

I found the entire process very rewarding.

I was present and invested at every stage. When I felt it was worthwhile or important to seek recognition, I did so; when others were making a similar point to mine I stepped back and chose not to seek recognition on top of

Because I went into it committed to give it my full attention.

online is challenging.

I'm very interested in what happens at all times during the General Assembly.

I am understanding this question to refer solely to the 225th GA - I remained engaged throughout, from training to in-person committee work to online plenaries.

I have the same focus and energy throughout!

Personal stewardship leads me to carry through with the commitment especially considering the amount of preparation I did over the past months. That said, when I couldn't focus or was too tired, I did step back for

I was prepared but, also, had the recognition that, as a first-time participant, there was not the need to rush to speak unless necessary. I attempt to observe the process and take note of what really moves process forward or

It was all new to me, so I was engaged all the time.

I was engaged from the very beginning but even with an illness during the plenaries, I was still able to stay tuned in and pay attention. I felt like I was able to be as engaged at home via zoom as I was while in the room with my I was very interested in my committee work. I watched some of the other committee work via livestreaming. I was very engaged with plenary activities. I appreciated centering each morning in worship.

I didn't seek recognition nor make motions or second a motion. I read the recommendations, listened to the discussion, prayed, and voted my conscience.

I was committed from the beginning, even as plenary was very hard in a remote setting.

I enjoy General Assembly, especially meeting Presbyterians from other places. Understanding the issues interests me as well. Since joining the denomination in 1983, I have wanted to learn as much as possible about being I attended the committee meetings each day and once home, participated in the plenary sessions.

I was very focused on the work.

I listened and I voted. I did not get recognized for any motions and/or questions. I think the technology was inadequate given the time constraints to push through the docket.

Because it did.

I only entered the queue one time. Mostly I just watched and listened to others speak.

The beginning was in-person and uplifting and challenging. The end was politically but less pleasantly engaging. My committee was B&O so that's different in itself. The plenary work was perfunctory in a good bit of work.

I considered it important to remain engaged throughout.

I was very motivated and committed.

I came fully engaged and stayed that way.

I was engaged and invested from the beginning. I value our Presbyterian structure and process.

If I agree to do something, I give it my all. I finished the trainings, but they were confusing. I read the items for my committee. I could not find items of business for the plenaries or an agenda. I did feel like I was always Interesting work all the way through

In plenary, changing a couple of words in a huge document can end up being excessively time consuming, cumbersome, and draining. I wish the process created more space to address big ideas of need in congregations It was a struggle but I forced myself to stay engaged. I got more competent with the tools as time went on.

This was my first event after having a child during the pandemic! so I was learning how to participate again in lots of ways. And being online slowed me down sometimes.

I participated in the meetings, kept up with the business, and followed each item of business to its conclusion.

I was on Zoom for almost all of the sessions and often found that the discussions went on way to long and were tedious. Sitting alone in a room just listening for days is tedious and engagement wavers.

As an introvert, I struggle to engage.

I prepared as best I could ahead of time (given the lack of direction from my committee leaders), I attended and participated in all committee meetings, plenaries, worship services and scheduled events. I did not speak on Despite the arduous time commitment overall, limited interpersonal contact in Louisville, and the long hours on zoom for plenary, I was determined not to falter in my attentiveness.

Although my engagement faltered late each day, I do not believe my level of engagement changed significantly or even in the same direction from day to day.

I tend to listen/absorb information before speaking or offering an opinion. The committee work and plenary work were pretty straightforward and I didn't feel the need to add or question the work. I appreciated the

I remained strongly engaged throughout

Esta reuni3n fue hibrida; tuvo el formato 224 respecto al trabajo virtual solo el periodo del comit3 de hizo hibrido. Por tanto como participante de 224 ten3a mayor destreza en PC-Biz, y uso de tecnolog3a. Entonces no I participated in everything that I committed to from the first day to the end.

I spent quality time using the online training, spending several hours a day to prepare.

I felt duty bound to be as present as possible, even during slack times .

persevered through the GA

I was committed to the process. This is important work.

I was focused on those items that most affected the broader church. Much of the plenary dealt with inner workings of the denomination, which as an outsider I either didn't completely understand or felt that PCUSA

I continued to watch PC-Biz for items that were of interest to me and kept up with any updates.

For personal reasons. I injured my knee before the second day of plenaries and I was limited in participating more due to pain. However, I remained engaged through all the plenaries.

I was very intent and committed to be able to vote on each overture with appropriate knowledge after reading and listening to the best of my abilities.

I took this commission very seriously and at a high level of engagement from the moment I was elected as a commissioner. I not only preprepared before hand my committee work, but made a commitment of 69+ hours

I felt that I was reasonably engaged the entire time.

Because it neither increased or decreased. I engaged during the time.

Being part of GA was my focus during this time. I enjoyed the committee experience but found the plenary sessions online mentally and physically challenging, however it was part of being a commissioner and it was my

Just on a whim I began making contemporaneous notes on my tablet in a Word doc at my first committee meeting. I was not sure if it would be a help or distraction, what happened was it really helped me stay focused

GA was what I expected and I thought it was generally very well done. Being on Zoom for such a long period was a challenge, but I was prepared for that circumstance.

I found that I had more energy at the start but as the assembly went on, I started getting tired and it was harder to stay focused. I don't think it decreased my engagement but I had to struggle to keep it the same.

I came ready to work

I tried to remain present and engaged throughout.

I attended committee pre-meetings. I attended all committee meetings in Louisville. I attended all online plenaries. I felt my participation remained about the same through these different times.

I tried to participate fully in all sessions.

I was focus on the beginning and throughout the meetings.

I was totally committed at all times.

Participating in the GA Meetings is always a blessing. Is a great opportunity to see our church in action and deal with important ministries and works for the Kin-dom.

I feel I was committed to staying engaged throughout the process. This was my "job."

I was felt committed to serving my denomination as a Commissioner. Having attended the General Assembly for earlier as a visitor, I was excited to serve as a Commissioner and listen to God's voice to vote my convictions.

I remained open and engaged d on start to finish.

I felt fully engaged in the entire experience because I wanted to learn how it worked.

I've been to many assemblies and been a YAAD or Commissioner to several. I'm all in from the word Go.

As a first-time commissioner, I was very motivated to maintain focus and concentration. Plenaries were intellectually challenging on Zoom (so much info and fast pace) but the hybrid format was well-done and the

Attended all sessions but Hands and Feet, & was wholly engaged in all sessions attended, seized all opportunities. Voted, asked questions, & spoke in cte & plenary. Submitted photos, art to cte assistant. Hosted

I was totally engaged from the beginning to the end. I loved learning about the process, and understanding how I struggled to stay engaged, but am deeply committed to the work of the General Assembly and so I kept finding

new ways to stay connected and focused. I did not participate in worship the last morning, due to exhaustion

Committee work was excellent. Being employed full time, I appreciated the plenaries being virtual because it gave me some time to address work issues before plenaries started each day.

I showed up to everything. My frustration grew with our outdated models and conversation. We did not spend the time we needed to spend on the focus and direction of the church and helping congregations and pastors
No hay motivos de cambio en mis compromisos por haber participado en 225a Asamblea General, s³lo tengo mayor informaci³n sobre los negocios de la Denominaci³n.

Each topic had important points of discussion.

I had a job to do! Secondly, the moderator(s) of both the committee and plenaries always kept us mindful of
Because my engagement stayed the same. By "engagement" I mean active participation. At the beginning I had to learn and get used to technology, for example - but I remained at the same level of attention, effort, and
I was fully engaged in General Assembly from beginning to end...from the first training session to the close of the
It is difficult to participate in the plenary's when online.

I was careful to manage my energy level so I could stay engaged throughout

I feel like I was an active, thoughtful, prayerful listener. I worked to be prepared for participation in the discussions and contributed to small group conversations/discussions. I remained committed to hearing the
I stayed engaged.

From the very beginning my committee met. The leaders were efficient and helpful. The time spent in person was fantastic and the plenaries were run very well. All topics were engaging.

I was very committed to the process and wanted to be engaged

I remained engaged.

my engagement did not increase for two connected reasons: 1. I was attempting to honor the equity prime and intentionally not-engage (so other could do so more), and, 2. I felt un/under appreciated as a white,

I wanted to stay connected to the community feel of the assembly, so I preferred not to miss worship and events. I engaged meaningfully with people and the business of the Assembly so that my engagement was
I tried to stay focused on the work that was in front of us as Commissioners.

I was in a state of anticipation for each day. I looked forward to the thoughtful, passionate discussions within the face to face committee meetings. I looked forward to the BIPOC gathering each day and the DIVERSITY of MUSIC,
I was dedicated to be a participant so my engagement had already been determined and remained consistent.
I was fully engaged all the time.

I was invested and ready to be present whether online or in person.

When I volunteered to be a substitute Commissioner, I made my personal commitment. Stay the course; all in or don't volunteer in the first place. Was I tired afterwards? Yes. Was it worth the time and effort? Yes.

I maintained the same level of focus- as GA was my primary focus.

Engagement probably went up and down throughout based on topic, but it is important work, and a lot of work had gone into the business addressed at the Assembly.

I tried to be as engaged as possible throughout

I was very attentive and vested in the more productive outcome of my committee

I attended all plenaries, I voted consistently, I spoke in plenaries a couple of times, etc.

I started out very engaged and stayed with it.

I was a commissioner my engagement level was not up to me.

I felt engaged throughout the entire assembly.

I was thoroughly present and engaged and involved throughout the entire time.

I was just as committed from day one as the last session.

Because it did

I was very interested in attending and never waned.

I felt willing to express concerns but for the most part my concerns were expressed by others and addressed to

I was fully engaged the entire time

Race/Ethnicity Other:What is your race or ethnicity? Select all that apply.

Human

human race / You do realize that asking this question is a racist thing to do.

I have Jewish Identity

HUMAN!!

Not taken into account

South East Indian

White Australian

trans-racial adoptee; adoptive family is black.

Caucasian

Celtic

White

Other, please specify: Which of the following best describes you? Select all that apply.

Young Adult

Laity

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

Member of a church

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

PC(USA) Inquirer and Student

Candidate for Ordination

Moderator

Seminary Student

PC(USA) member through my church and campus ministry

member of a PC(USA) church

The 222nd GA voted to use Minister of Word & Sacrament!

YAAD, Deacon

PC(USA) church member, YAAD

Almost a CRE

church member/YAAD

YAAD

Youth in church

PC(USA) member - YAAD

Presbytery moderator.

Theological Seminary Delegate

Mission Advisory Delegate

IP(EE.UU.A) Presbitero Gobernante

Seminarian

Theological Student

YAAD

Student and enquirer

Chair of Multicultural Ministries Ministry Team

PW officer

Other - Write In:How did you find this experience? Select all that apply.

I only attended once due to time differences topped with a long daily plenary schedule.

It was great to be able to share our concerns/thoughts at the BIPOC meeting during plenary since few of us were recognized to share at the sessions.

I am thankful for the refreshment bags that were generously provided.

I looked forward to the daily discussions.

More of these sessions should be included in future GA meetings GA

It was an encouraging experience

Other - Write In:Why were you not able to participate?

I wanted to participate, but was unable to do so . My Sister in Christ kept me informed and I was inspired by the conversations held by BIPOC July 5th -9th-. I want to register and become part of it.

The sessions occurred during committee meetings.

Didn't qualify

I didn't feel the need to use the BIPOC spaces, but I was SO grateful to have them available if I needed--it was I simply lost track of time.

Although I identify as multiracial, I appear white, so I feel the BIPOC spaces were not for me with my privilege.

I was masking and social distancing to avoid catching and spreading Covid-19 to my unvaccinated toddler, so unless I'm person events were mandated, I did not attend

What can we do better to help future General Assembly participants?

On line plenaries we're long and difficult to sit in front of screen particularly without others present. If not desiring everyone present have other committees attend the later plenaries in person.

Improve the plenary experience, which I found disappointing. In retrospect, there were too many presentations -- this reduced the time available for actual business. The co-moderators needed more training in navigating the technology -- motions to amend were missed and there was not enough discussion of important issues. Despite their profession of the importance of equity primes, those were sacrificed in a rush to conclude business. The

Go back to in person assemblies. GA is so much more than business. Relationships should be cultivated; fellowship time is so important. And those who often feel disenfranchised from the church are able to gather in the exhibit hall, for camaraderie, for learning, for friendship. This did not happen at all. I also was so distressed by the armed guards at the center during my committee time that I almost resigned from the General Assembly.

Please don't do this to us again. This meeting is too long- and the technology made it tortuous. The nights were too late, and because I was not away for my service, I was expected to run the church while also serving as a

Make sure there is some community-I was so lonely-I tried to get others to go to dinner with me but was ignore or people were non-committal.GA needs to have one or two even small group gathering in 226. The airport and 100 Witherspoon made me feel welcome-but "I was a stranger and you did not welcome me" as far the rest of Plenary days were extremely long. I'm not sure how you prepare future participants for that.

We need to find a way that makes it easier for people to attend. Especially, younger people. Most people don't

1) make the plenary schedule no more than 8 hours. 2) limit each committee's voting items to no more than 2. essentials. 3) streamline and reduce the layers of bureaucracy 4) too much energy spent on parliamentary

I love the idea of extended online committee meetings - maybe Over a month or six weeks.

I drove to GA. Would have liked to have been able to use funds from the meal card to put a tank of gas in my car.

I really appreciated having committees the way they were because I felt more informed going into plenary than I did last time under the traditional format. It was also nice To have them spread out so as to have more time to digest smaller amounts of info. While I realize this will not happen again, if there was some sort of

Ask presbyteries to provide training to their commissioners/delegates. Send out communication to the commissioners/delegates earlier, that is formatted and organized so they are easy to navigate. Remind commissioners to not only read the Items of Business recommendations, but the rationales and the appendices

Require travel arrangers to respond to commissioners who may find themselves stranded due to airline

It was great. It would be good to encourage people to attend. It was a pioneering effort with the technology. I'm

Hard question to answer. Overall the support was good. No glaring gaps

Find some way to speed up the business. Waiting for so long to take advisory then commissioner votes got

tedious. Include more theological reflection. I heard much more about how we're doing God's work than about

I thought the presentation and the help was outstanding. A little more communication before we get there

would have been helpful. I kept feeling lost in the pre-preparation.

N/a

Tighten the timeline

Ensure that what participants see on PC-Biz matches what the moderators see to avoid misunderstandings. Ask in advance about participants' availability when committees and the plenary are split. Acknowledge that ruling elders have the same time issues that YAADs raised as an equity issue. Also, be more realistic about the

I was one who voted for and argued for the 226 GA in person because an online environment is very difficult for me to stay engaged with. I regret that my divided attention diminished my sense of Spirit led discernment.

N/A

We REALLY need to go back to a MOSTLY in-person assembly over a period of 1 (or maybe 2) weeks. The Technology Team did an AMAZING job with what they had to work with... but, having a Zoom meeting for 300+ people over a five day span is problematic at best. Technology was NOT our friend during this assembly and

Shorter time constraints would be helpful. As the solo pastor of a church, it is difficult to commit this much of time to being away from my people. For instance, if online meetings could have regularly scheduled shorter meetings over greater time period, I could adjust my schedule accordingly without making room to fulfill my Don't leave commissioners without knowledge of which days they will need to be available for GA committees as holding multiple weeks open was not reasonable (as could not make personable plans for this extended time I believe I have answered this earlier, especially with regard to the Equity Primes. Practice using the Parliamentary box for more than binary voting (making motions, etc: whenever I tried to make a motion. I had to preface it with a choice of what item I was making a motion about, but there were too few options, all of them Send out more reminders daily.

Keep continuous flow of communication and resources available

A constructive comment. Several individuals tended to dominate The conversation at plenary, wished to insert their opinion over that of the excellent committee work, and, in some cases, wished to override a decision made by a super majority. In most cases, the individuals were teaching elders. In my opinion, they took advantage of the moderators and the assembly. Often, the presumption was that they knew more than everyone. I know this Offer scholarship funds for participation for commissioners and advisory delegates who work hourly jobs and cannot take this much time off without financial support. It might allow some who would not be likely participants to join in. Develop a way to chat with a parliamentarian so that motions can be vetted as the would be in person. And as a way to get information to moderators that something might be getting missed. Support the kind of interactions that is happening on Twitter so that commissioners can connect with each other in the Have everything in person

Information about the previous General Assembly, mobilization to allow more young people attend the General Because of my seniority with my company, I was granted the time off; if GA was not scheduled around a major holiday that would have made it easier to take the time off.

Making sure all committees have orientation together before coming to General Assembly time!!!!!! Building in Make sure that the committee moderators have experience moderating and are grounded in Reformed theology. We had no worship or Bible study in our committee. It was exclusively secular with a wafting of As I previously stated, I believe that it would be best to make trainings and everything else closer together. Having so many trainings spread out over multiple months made it hard to participate in every single training and event. YAADs often work AND attend school, and so this makes it difficult to do much of anything, let alone Let commissioners know as soon as possible when they will be needed at GA. Do not let months go by without telling commissioners when they will need to be at GA.

SURVEY their interest to serve on particular committees

Recognize that you speak so often of "inclusion" and appreciate everyone's voice, but as long as that perspective I like the online model. I am concerned about spending money when so many need help, and the environmental damage done with everyone flying to a central location. I think it would be a great statement to do it all online

Make them more aware of the schedule early on

Make sure YAADs understand their limitations during plenary. It was an embarrassment for the young man who wanted to make a motion to be told he could not because he was a YAAD.

Keep the time to serve as compact as possible. I was in group 4. Taking travel into account, I was either traveling or in GA from June 29 thru July 8 with one day off. That's a lot.

Continue to improve on-line material and apps. More detail on basic structure of GA and PCUSA. Finer details on duties of committees. Maybe supply video of the actual committee work recorded so process and procedures slow down several people had motions not heard nor were they given time to speak

Give people a chance to use their voice. I noticed that certain people were given multiple chances to speak. The same people were called on many times. Again, my voice was not given a chance to be heard.

So much of the experience depend on the leadership both in committee and plenary. My committee leadership was fine. Plenary leadership was outstanding! I sooooo appreciate Shavon and Ruth's pastoral leadership, and I am so excited for them going forward. I also deeply appreciate Tricia. She is an outstanding parliamentarian who knew precisely when to intervene. So, I don't know how to "better" help future participants other than to Would love to be all in- person, but appreciate that May never be again. For what we had, you all did an amazing More intensive training in use of parliamentary toolbox and parliamentary procedure as it relates to GA Familiarize Commissioners as much as possible on the issues that will be coming before then for a vote. Have a daily suggestion box (electronically) so that people know where to take issues.

Consider a formal installation service for all commissioners. Yes, this was supposedly done at the presbytery level, but that didn't mean much... Perhaps making a pledge of service and commitment could help inspire Technology snafus are ok for committee work but cannot happen at plenaries esp as it pertains to motions. Otherwise the need for many Reconsiderations will arise. This is why I am pleased to do the Omega plan for 226th b/c plenaries will be in person. This also helps with the time zone issues. Please reduce the number of Send out duties and responsibilities very early.

Explain the potential length of time that plenaries will last. Emphasize the importance of staying on task.

I think my only real complaints are related to format, which was dictated by community health safety, or issues related to lack of support or information from seminary or presbytery - both areas beyond the planning of COGA. Perhaps, seminaries and presbyteries need more guidance about what to provide delegates and commissioners, though this is a well established part of our denominational work! I seemed to miss some emails from outside Have some sort of evening activities, especially for REs. The TEs likely know some of the others in attendance just by the nature of interaction through various activities of GA. But unless another RE or your TE is in I have no helpful suggestions at this time.

Encourage relationship-building before anything starts -- enjoyed getting to know Synod members who served on other committees; connected with others on-site with whom we formed a text pod for communication Make sure they know their views will likely not be expressed.

When meeting in person, have restroom access on every level. Snacks with healthy options.

Make sure people seeking to be recognized do get recognized. I sought recognition to comment probably a dozen times and got called upon just once. The snafu on HSB 6 was very frustrating and affected the outcome. I was excited and grateful for all the prep I had as a participant.

Participation of congregation as an observer to the GA will help understanding the presbyterian faith. I find it hard to understand most congregation members do not know why they or coming to church. everything is to I am not sure how to train commissioners for the structure of the church. I gained a deeper understanding by following some of the other committees after I attended. They had additional power points and instructor's Encourage commissioners to prepare for the next day's business so they are not reading overtures, especially amended overtures, for the first time as they are being presented.

I think the decision to hold the plenaries in person will help. Not sure how committee work will be done via zoom though. Decisions are decidedly slanted to the left. Those who voices are more moderate or to the right Larger screens for the co-moderators so that seeing the queue isn't as difficult.

Technological connectivity videos

I'm guessing that this GA had more than the usual amount of work to do due to 2020 COVID

A detailed schedule so they know end times

This was a lot of time off as a committee member and as a committee leader. I am blessed to have a fair amount of leave due to the years I've had on my job. We need to figure out how more people can participate otherwise all GA's will be retired people. We need to figure out how a younger generation and future leaders can

Encourage tech training to those who do not understand new technology.

Continue to provide necessary information.

I was the alternate for this year's assembly. The person who was the Commissioner this year was unable to attend. I only found out a month before the Assembly that I would be attending. It might be a good idea to include the alternate in the training and information provided just in case the Commissioner is unable to attend, A video with multiple attendees speaking about their experiences and recommendations for future I feel like somethings needed to be better communicated. Like I had to find what was the content of the plenary dockets from an article on the GA, not a direct communication.

#43 didn't have an appropriate answer for me. I am in validated ministry; so while I didn't have to use vacation, the volume of time I dedicated to GA was much more than anticipated, which meant I just had to work more and more to keep up--in a season when I am in desperate need of sabbath. I wish I had known that. I have always wanted to be a commissioner and never before had the opportunity, so I am not sure I would have done it differently, but a better use of time, more efficiency, more asynchronous training, and more knowledge up front Fix G.A. biz so moderators will acknowledge a motion.

Clearly state time constraints for other time zones. Although I was aware that the schedules were for EST, I was disappointed that there were no adjustments for other time zones.

Set a "prime time" for the commissioners and delegates to get to know the PCusa General Office better.

Plenary in person will be an important thing. The committees are going to have to intentional with break out groups and relationship building activities. Moderators of committees must be trained on ways to lead effectively on zoom. And they will have to find ways to see and hear from people well. If we go online for plenary again creating zoom gatherings and messenger groups and advertising hashtags that bring us together will help build community. Making PC biz more accessible would help as well. It was difficult to navigate and even as

So by splitting the committee week away from the plenary week it caused me to use more of my vacation/study leave time than I would have if the GA had been in normal routine. Also - I'll say this everywhere I can your I strongly advise COGA to research alternative options for General Assembly, particularly as outlined in the background for GA-MC-15. We are elected as commissioners for a two year period. Let's use technology to deliberate our business over the course of several months, rather than rushing through plenary with agenda

Shorten the time frame. Hybrid seems to be the best -- allows for some in person interaction, but doing plenary from home/office was much more tolerable than having to sit at a table all day, especially when things were Testimonials from previous commissioners telling what they found helpful and meaningful in doing their work.

The General Assembly was fine. The accommodations were not. The Galt House has certainly gone down hill since I last stayed there in 2018. I would assume it is due mostly to lack of staff.

I recommend where participant is willing, that you encourage a commissioner to serve more than 1 time. I know for myself, now understanding what to expect, I would be much more involved & effective in my serving the GA

I am hopeful that committee work would be easier to do at home with balancing family than it was to do plenary. Perhaps some way to acknowledge the struggles of balancing work life, family life, and serving this particular way virtually with some sort of child care or stipend for meals even while at home. If I didn't have to

Continue allowing others to feel welcomed.

Continue to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit and the changing times in which we live. Well done, Work with moderators to prepare them to do a better job of recognizing those wishing to speak, etc.

You can give advisory delegates more of a voice. While it was great to hear so many voices, it often felt like these voices were getting overlooked because they had no votes during plenaries. As a theological delegate, it really felt that we were overlooked, even when we are all studying to be in vocational ministry and what was being a denomination wide in person biannual gathering is essential to maintaining our connectedness, it must be open and accessible to everyone, committees can do their work over three months in advance and meet once at the assembly site before plenaries the on site gathering can be accomplished in 5 days not including travel

days with the traditional friday travel and welcome, saturday, sunday worship followed by one concluding I felt the GA experience was well thought out.

I understand there were tricky dynamics to the use of technology, particularly in regards to an understanding of the difference between what commissioners saw on Parl. Toolbox and the Co-Mods saw. While there is a need to keep the business moving, some of the time for debate felt limited or stunted, while other items received an Having GA be only a week, or even a week and a couple of days would likely be more accessible, as it was difficult to have that much time off to fully participate in Louisville and online plenary. However, I am glad that I Please assure the participants that all is extremely well-prepared. The accommodations are fabulous. And, please take time to prayerfully prepare for the decisions to be made.

It might be nice to have some more affordable meal choices. \$22 for a breakfast buffet was a bit much!

In SessionSync, show not only the current amendment, but what it is amending, especially when amendments are being amended. Show the relationship of the current motion with its item of business. Give committees more than one microphone, and use amplification in the room, especially for moderators. The echo of live speaking and zoom repetition was very distracting, and the moderator couldn't get our attention easily when we didn't have earpieces in. People were discouraged from speaking in committee because they had to physically walk/climb to the microphone halfway across the room, and they couldn't hear responses from Zoom participants immediately because they had to cross back through other people to return to their seats, making discussion slower and more difficult. Provide training on using sessionsync to moderators/committee support

Maybe more orientation for folks who haven't attended. Maybe connect some people ahead of time for

Please clearly announce the bus departure schedule from the hotel. Also please include the name of the bus company. I missed the one bus before my flight time and had a very stressful time getting to the airport.

General Assembly tries to tackle so many issues all at once that it feels impossible to review things (outside of your committee portfolio) ahead of the committee work. But you have no voice in the other committees, and debate was rushed at times in plenary sessions. There were moments in the plenaries when people objected to amendments (or "wordsmithing") based on a lack of expertise. But PCUSA doesn't make committee assignments

Better communicated expectations of time

(1) make sure there is an "Introduction to your Committee." (2) NO 14 HOUR ZOOM DAYS. What were you

Have the assembly take place over a short designated period of time.

Go back to full in-person Assembly. Otherwise, we were treated fabulously from start to finish.

I believe hybrid options should be considered. My presbytery (Redstone) has successfully held hybrid meetings for presbytery and for council/committee meetings for over a year. Many people prefer to participate virtually

Make sure they know how much time they are committing to, with reading, training, travel and zoom plenary

I wonder if it would be possible not to use PC Biz for in person voting. There are delays and motions and questions get lost. Also in our meeting room there was no amplification in the room for commissioners'

questions or motions--we had to listen to them on Zoom even though we were in the same room. It was

Can't think of anything. Food could be better

I would love to see more than RE & TE being able to participate. I was part of an NCD for 5 years without Elders or Deacons. Our new worshipping communities should have access. Commissioners with barriers to travel could use a Zoom version to participate. We all agree that in person is ideal but what ways can we be flexible for those

GA 226 Commissioners should get a briefing book on the work of GA 225. First time Commissioners do not know

Use some role-plays in video training which show examples of what is healthy engagement and what is not.

While we should be passionate, we should be careful to think that we are so much more knowledgeable than

The Presby podcast was great for ga updates. Would love to see that content more

Have fruit and veggie trays at breaks. Too much sugar and carbs. We had 2 on-line meetings before committee--mostly business and reminders. Another one might have been helpful--getting to know each other.

That was a HUGE time commitment - I am unaware of how it relates to 'usual' GA's, but wow, I was able to do it because I work part-time at a church, but that means really none of my time was compensated and was all volunteer, so I feel more for ruling elders making this commitment. Can we lessen the time it takes? I suppose if next time has all committee work online at the same time that would shorten GA to only a week or so... just

Keep seeking and studying feedback and continue to keep lines of communication open. It's impossible to please everyone or to anticipate every need but I thought that this was a great introduction to the GA process. Thank PCBiz is an excellent tool. I think we need a few modifications with SessionSync. For example, the question field needs to be longer. It was frustrating to ask a question and not have the question answered.

This might be a tough question to answer. People will need to make time to be able to meet requirements of a hybrid Assembly. Not sure how that would be managed

Please try to streamline plenaries. Being in person this year for committees was so very rewarding in making connections with others. I would love to see everything be live and in person again rather than even partially online. Online doesn't allow time to effectively caucus with others and secure support for amendments, etc.

Don't do online sessions. It's too difficult to get engagement and build the relationships needed for meaningful Omega may provide for a better plenary experience and reduce the time commissioners are away from their typical obligations. A premium will be on designing an online committee experience that enables relationships to develop and work to be done in a reasonable amount of time. Without such intentionality, the committee element of Omega could become just as tedious and time-consuming as the 225 plenary sessions. It would

Keep the format like it was this year. It works.

I honestly don't know. I'm amazed at what OGA does. I thought the arrangements were excellent. One person on our committee complained because we finished early and there was some inconvenience for him rebooking his travel. I thought that was somewhat trivial compared with everything that was arranged and paid for us.

Again, give specific guidance early on. Encourage presbyteries to support their commissioners very directly from the moment of their election--we did not have that. There was plenty of time to prepare, but not as much

Offer more opportunities to actually visit Presbytery of host location.

I had to take vacation and I am the CE Director of our church. I think letting the church know that this is an honor It feels like there needs to be some sort of checklist or something with all the steps listed. There were so many emails coming from different places that sometimes it was hard to discern what needed immediate attention or action compared to just an FYI. Thankfully reminder emails were sent if something was missed. I did receive a couple of those - which I'm thankful for - but it kind of felt like I was being reprimanded. I can hold my own with

I believe the personal interaction and relationships/networking, etc, can be reinstated in an in person GA to help

More time is needed to review the consent agenda in order to determine whether or not one is in agreement

N/A

More polity training, more equity primes emphasis (perhaps even renaming if possible, as that is such an abstraction), and deeper understanding of the idiosyncrasies of PC-Biz.

Provide support / safe space for those excluded from BIPOC opportunities and resources

If plenaries are going to be online again, then perhaps they should be spread out over more days. I don't know we need to get everything done in a single week. That schedule makes more sense when people travel and are

The online training did not flow well. Often after completing a module, it would state there was more training required in that module when all was completed.

I serve a small church as a solo pastor, and I found this format to be incredibly flexible and workable for me.

Be open to different views, opinions, and theology that is reformed.

Transparency as to who is "waiting in line" and their presbyteries. Also, who is in the room advising. In-person we would be able to see that. Lessen length of ZOOM time - somehow. Can we really make good decisions at

Keep on keeping on. Encourage Presbyteries to nominate youth advisory delegates. I found the demographic questions very helpful in plenary 1. And Encourage us to define the language to describe ourselves she/her

I was well advised by people who had attended previously. You should make sure participants are aware of the Either Zoom or in-person. Having the delay from the committee in-person to Zoom difficult.

Simplify the MY GA source. Make better defined links to access business items. Be sure the technology works. I don't think my buttons on the parliamentary panel worked at all. I seconded items all the time, but the moderators would strive to find a second elsewhere. I brought forward a motion and other questions but was

It would have been nice to know more about housing and getting around while there but was fine once we got More personal connections especially for the YAADs. Very few participated in the plenaries. For the next GA bring them to Salt Lake several days early to get to know one another and build relationships, have fun, and have Would have been nice for more social interaction during committee week, but understand the challenges of a In person would be better but that was voted down.

I think you're doing it!

There was sufficient help available for participants. Connecting 1st time commissioners with experienced commissioners early on for mentoring may help new commissioners.

Find flexible scheduling for those who cannot take off. For years, when working full-time (outside of the church) I used all of my annual leave each year for various presbytery/synod/GA activities. Now retired, but serving as part-time stated clerk for presbytery I don't have regular hours. But it was elected commissioner as a ruling I guess it depends on the time you have to prepare. Because I was an alternate and had 2 weeks to prepare, I felt like I was catching up. But the committee moderator was wonderful and attending the sessions was satisfying.

Encourage multiple GA attendance as the first one is a training exercise.

Explain acronyms and what the different organizations do

Let's get that Overture written to give YAAD's full voting rights at Plenary! This is likely unrealistic but giving a commissioner the opportunity to visit an assembly prior to the assembly where they will serve as commissioner, might provide a helpful orientation on Roberts Rules, the parliamentary procedure, seeking recognition, etc.

I had a problem with the GA-Connections being blocked by my browser and not realizing it until I got a message about not having started the training. Sending an email announcement (maybe I just missed it) when new

Everyone did a great job. Staff and volunteers and technicians were wonderful and helpful in all areas. Future GA for 226 GA with committee work online; I suggest breakout rooms or some vehicle to allow collaboration

Consider time zones as seriously as other factors when striving for fuller inclusion and participation in online portions of General Assembly (ex: notice how few (often international) EADs participated in this year's plenary vs

Give them all the information you can about what to expect in any situation. I felt prepared but would have loved to know exactly how the online part would work in practice. Luckily it worked pretty well!

Find a way to allow more time for people that want to speak to get that opportunity. We were rushed through debating some items of business, sometimes with 15 or more people wanting to speak. If the reality is there weren't 15, then fix the tech to be more accurate. The impression left is that of being shut down, at that's not the intention, I believe. There were times where an IOB had the original wording, the committee wording, the

There is an equity issue between those who are paid to attend and those who are not. Everyone should receive a stipend to attend. If for example you are a paid church staff person, the stipend would go to your employer, for example to provide pulpit supply etc. If you are not being paid to attend it would be fairer. For example, a stipend might be \$200 a day to attend plus expenses. Not enough to get rich but it would be helpful. It might increase participation among hourly and self employed workers and pastors from small congregations. The

Do not draw it out over 23 days.

I believe that it is an honor to serve at GA and would make the needed arrangements if I was working. However, I believe that having the plenaries in person will shorten the number of days needs, since the time differences

Maximize opportunities to build community and in-person engagement.

Make both committee work and the plenary in-person.

Emphasize time commitment. As 1st time commissioner, I didn't realize how big a commitment it was going to Upon arrival, more time to become familiar. More time in in-place meetings; less plenary. Training/information on the entire process of GA. Committee moderators need more training; they need to listen more and judge less.

Nothing

I believe the hybrid system does allow for the participation of many at a cost effect manner, so continuous training at mid council and local churches can be encouraged

Distribuci3n de material con miles stones bien definidos, opin3 que ocasiones s3lo se cumple con un plan si llevar al participante a un mejor nivel de conocimiento y confianza a lo que le corresponde. El ofrecer solicitudes I posted questions during plenary but they generally were interpreted/asked by the moderators and there was no way to clarify the question without posting a new one. They generally selected only certain questions relating In the practical sense, nothing much. I do have some issues with how committee work is structured.

Reimburse mileage in a timely manner. It has now been 3 weeks and I have not received a mileage check.

Limit repeat talkers from the very beginning. Explain why we need allotted time to vote. GIVE ADVISORY

From an outsider's perspective, I would suggest that you find a way of dealing with amendments before plenary sessions. That often seemed rather tedious and from an outsider's perspective not easy to follow. It seemed at times that you were amending, amendments, all of which could have been/should have been handled in Be prepared for the time commitments if the Assembly continues to be held this way.

1. List key background resources pertaining to each committee's work. It was time consuming to find what was most helpful in the rationales for understanding the issues. 2. Schedule some informal get togethers prior to the the change to online committee meetings and in-person plenary meetings for the next GA is going to be very helpful. Having a set date for the in-person part will make travel arrangements much easier.

I think it would be helpful to know committee assignments earlier. It would also help to know if there are any delegates in the same committee or committee group in your area. I may have driven to Louisville if I had been The moderator of our committee did not have the faculties to assist our committee leadership, me, or the work of our committee. I felt the weight of most of our responsibilities and it was grueling. Although we "survived", it make sure that commissioners can contact each other easily before GA and during plenary---it was extraordinarily difficult to communicate since we didn't have chat or other ways of discussing business online, which is a given at in-person assemblies. IT REALLY INTERFERED WITH THE FLOW OF THE ASSEMBLY, Keep the Plenary on 'TIME'.

Making it easier to connect with others going to GA and making it easier to access things like travel stuff. I believe if all of this was down or all the information was found through one place in MyGA it would make stuff a Not sure I could justify taking so much time off of work again. Not sure what to do about that.

Do not make it last longer than a week, so that everyone can participate fully.

Be more accommodating to the fact people traveled a long way to get to Louisville. Things like giving information in where and when cultural events were going. For Juneteenth day it would have been interesting to have had special events opportunities to k\learn more about history and life of people of color in Kentucky. These things

I am hopeful that the decision to switch the committee work to virtual and having the plenaries in person will be an improvement. While I loved meeting others on the committee the Zoom plenaries lacked the energy that happens in that big room full of commissioners, backed by those who come to observe and support the commissioners, and enabled by the amazing team of co-moderators, stated clerk, parliamentarian, and all the amazing tech people that are behind the curtains making sure things go as smoothly as possible. Out of all the

Make the tech requirements and time commitment very clear to commissioners applicants.

There will be much different concerns dealing with the future GA so I think remembering to actively listen to

I had a lot of trouble whenever I had to rely on translation when a non English speaker had the floor. The problem was that even with my headphones on, I could still hear the original language so loudly that I had to Hay que ver cada caso no se puede generalizar

Maybe a bit more moderated online preparation.

Perhaps some kind of team building exercise(s) could be done before the committee meeting so the participants do not start out as complete strangers. Technical issues with session sync. Perhaps more capacity planning

This wasn't a huge problem for me, but having to keep a chunk of time open for potential committee meetings (those final weeks in June) could be a barrier. The sooner people know when they need to take time off, etc, the Make sure that YAADs and people not employed by churches are able to participate - I had an easy time making space in my schedule for this hybrid structure, but missed hearing from a wider variety of voices.

If necessary, the committee work can be done by zoom, but the plenary sessions should be in person.

N/A

Synod training needs to be set up earlier to help participants be better prepared for the various timelines of on-
Inform the participants of the time needed to participate in the committee work and the GA meeting.

Ask Mid Councils to determine what are the barriers to participation of persons who are not retired or who do not have flexible work hours. Use those suggestions to assist future GA participants.

Make sure commissioners understand the volume of required to participate effectively.

I think you all did a fantastic job. I just believe that experiencing a GA is the best training.

As I mentioned in last question, time commitment was a real barrier in this Assembly. Enough so that I changed my opinion going in that "hybrid is the best option going forward" to "in-person is the best option going forward" based entirely on the time commitment issues related to this Assembly. Since we are using the Omega option in 2024, I would plead that we take into consideration how our online committees can accommodate people who can only take 1 or 2 weeks off a year. I am a teaching elder who works full time at a church, so among the most privileged in my ability to take time for the Assembly. That said, I exhausted my study-leave allowance and still had to work and respond to normal church duties during the week of online plenary. That was very difficult, even with a congregation who generally understood that my unavailability for much of that week was related to the larger church. I LOVED participating in the Assembly, but by the time in closed, both my church and my family were feeling the pressure and frustration of how long I had been "gone" - and confused by the time where I was physically "here" but for all intents and purposes, on Zoom 12 hours a day and unavailable. I watched YAADS drop off - and our Synod's YAADS really had to come and go because of their commitments. Looking at the demographics, the age of ruling elders was older than usual, perhaps reflecting that this schedule was workable

If possible, it would have been helpful to have definite start and end times to online plenaries (for childcare

Reduce time commitment for participants

I think that all that was done was very helpful. I appreciate the excellence of the staff and enjoyed being in the Presbyterian Center for part of the meeting. It was a good Assembly!!

The parliamentarian in my committee (mid-council) did a great job guiding us thru process. His presentation at the beginning of our time was extremely helpful. I found it to be one of the most helpful parts of my experience in committee. Prepping people who are new or for whom parliamentary procedure is new directly corresponds to their ability to participate. We need to continue to dismantle language in our own procedures

I believe that there should be a focus on how to build better relationships between the advisory delegates and the commissioners. It appeared to me that advisory delegates were look as more inferior than the

commissioners especially when we only had a voice in the plenaries. When I did voice my thoughts during the committee meetings there were side comments and snickering when I was speaking which made me self-conscious and the committee moderator did not support those of us who spoke more than once and instead

Can't think of anything. Preparation was good.

Narrow the amount of time commissioners must commit to participate in GA. Three weeks is a lot to ask! Make Committee assignments sooner so that commissioners will know the exact dates they'll be needed when they agree to serve. Maybe assign the slots by Presbytery so at least the Presbyteries will be able to give potential See training suggestion.

You did a great job! For the next GA, commissioners will not have to hold such a long period of time.

I have a recommendation for greater transparency in the process of debating recommendations using PC-Biz as a parliamentary tool: On PC-Biz, Commissioners and Delegates see a status box that tallies numbers of people who want to speak for or against a measure, same box lists tallies of motions and other actions. I believe that it's possible to list names instead of tallies in this space. I believe doing so would more closely mimic the process of signing in to comment and holding a paddle while waiting for a microphone in in-person meetings. It would also give the people seeking recognition confirmation that their request was received and is deemed valid, which is something that would happen in person. (I sought recognition by submitting a motion, and didn't know whether

I felt that all accommodations and preparations were excellent. The hotel, the tech help, the help desk, the church and organizations that provided the food, the church that provided our bus, were all amazing. The training time and prep time for committee work prior to being in Louisville was very good. I would have liked Compress time commitment. 3 weeks too much for most working folks. Zoom committee meetings might help. Shorten the time required to participate in GA; make shared worship experiences available to commissioners when in-person (even worshipping at the same time in the same format from our different committee rooms In Plenary when looking at an amendment to committee work to ask the committee if they had spent considerable time discussing the item they were seeking to change for their input of discernment The only thing that was a little difficult for me was having to block out nearly half a month, not knowing exactly when my committee would meet. I teach certification classes that are scheduled for an entire calendar year. I believe that it would be helpful to have orientation for first time participants. They should be aware of the time involved, both in person and online. Five days of zoom meetings were exhausting, but it was important to It should be less time consuming. I was required to take vacation time while in Louisville but could get my part-time flexible hour job done during the plenaries by multi-tasking. I am a church employee but my church did not Arrange to have some sort of getting-to-know your Committee Members. With all the work involved during the day, most people didn't invite others to dinner nor to "hang out". This makes it hard to make friends like Jesus General Assemblies call for a deep commitment from one and all. The ministry/work done is never easy, but it is worthwhile. For me, this General Assembly exhibited exciting new ways to connect with one another - as The plenary work on the computer caused me much distress. I felt lost most of the time and tried hard to read and be prepared, but needed to just shut my eyes at the end of the day. Plenary was very intense and stressful, Please FOCUS! We cannot do everything. We are hundreds of churches that are dying and pastors that are burnt out. We have to help them, provide mentors, teach/learn change management principles and try to be the It is unfortunate in this time of COVID to have to do a hybrid model, though I recognize the necessity. It is hard to A little more overview, way at the beginning, to allow people to better get thru the training to train properly I still feel the best option is in person for both committee and assembly work. Having both committee and assembly back to back is my preference. I am concerned about committee work being solely online because of the lack of representation we experienced in committee and at the assembly. There were many barriers to full inclusion and participation. For older people and new commissioners, technology inhibits participation. Online also preferences those who are "in the know" about GA. When we meet in person for committees and the assembly it is open to the whole church and exhibits transparency and allows for better and fuller participation I cannot think of anything. I now think that the Presbyterys need to work with their commissioners and advisory delegates to prepare for the GA. OGA cannot provide guidance for all aspects of the responsibilities. Streamlining ability to be recognized when there is a question/correction to an amendment.

I didn't have any issues

The information is there but it is difficult to navigate. PC-Biz was also very buggy in the initial going at for my committee, which was the "first wave." Finally, stronger wi fi connection was needed in our location (again, at least for the first wave of committees. Not sure how relevant that will be for future GA meetings though.)

Have you thought of digging into our coffers and just offering each person a stipend of sorts? Some folks had to put pets in kennels, some folks don't have cash for travel needs before they can get reimbursed, some will lose income if they are elected by their presbyteries. We can always turn a stipend or grant down if we don't need it. Honestly, I am not sure how to handle technical issues any better than you did.

Make sure everyone is well versed in the committee that they will serve on, if any, and that they know their stuff. Hard to ensure, I know, but being educated about the issues is very important, in order to participate fully.

Continue to build on the training and resources provided for this 225th General Assembly m

Include as much time in person, together as possible.

If GA is held via ZOOM in the future the comment or debate needs to be better managed. I realize all voices need to be heard but it was the same few voices over and over and the were only concerned with their small world

Three weeks is untenable even for church employees. It restricted the pool of availability. It also made the assembly a bit older than I remember (although that could be wrong)

Opportunities for discussion and conversation among committee members and throughout the GA are critical for building deeper understanding of the issues and how they differently affect congregations and individuals.

Communicate how valuable it is to do the training ahead of time, and how much time needs to be dedicated to I would have everything run the same way again. I thought it was a great balance. I think having the committees

More out of meeting engagement

Long hours via zoom are very difficult.

Still awaiting expense reimbursement 4 weeks after charges were incurred, and in the 3rd week after the close

Maybe offer a person(s) that could be consulted on GA from a participant viewpoint. Now that I've been through it I understand considerably more than I did in anticipation.

Have a class offered for TSADS to get credit, in the hopes that GA would not conflict with class but be an

Reach out to the Presbytery of North Alabama--several of their Commissioners seemed at a lost for resources--how about all Presbyteries and Synods--with resource help for smaller churches. Their struggles could be heard through the words of their amendments and for/against statements. Real-world, real-time struggles within the

Maybe do something to connect people better.

I had an issue where I thought I had booked my flight, but the travel agent said it was reserved but not booked.

Thankfully, I checked on my flights a few weeks in advance, and the agent was able to book my flights (at a much more expensive rate). It sounds like I was not the only one who ran into the problem. I'm not sure where the

Make more efforts to call on different people for opinions. It seemed like the same people were called on often prepare them for the types of topics that will be covered.

Riverside conversations were really helpful. I think having more on line orientations to understand the process would be helpful. And having the "get to know you" group time for committee was helpful. I would have enjoyed more opportunities to get to know other commissioners over dinner. I found that time of day to be

The time commitment was extensive for this hybrid GA. I hope with the committee work as virtual next time it can perhaps be spread out over time and we can have more choice of when we can meet (i.e., evenings after work). I also hope the plenary in person allows more guests to attend, both to speak to overtures and to

This was indeed a unique experience and may not become the norm. The GA team did a great job preparing and In person totally!

More access ahead of time to read and understand overtures. Overtures were too long with too many details to MEET IN PERSON AND NOT ON-LINE FOR ANYTHING!!! Very little time given to discussing MAJOR ISSUES apart from maybe at most two "FOR" and two "AGAINST." This was historic in the way business has been conducted at GA and the results were in no way permissive of fully hashing out discussions and doing-so IN PERSON which is Run through all the opportunities commissioners have at GA in the early training. Include in the Plenary the details of the businesses that will come beforehand.

I believe with Covid things will change every time you do this. You did an great job with how things were done. You will have no problems as long as you keep doing this.

See the comments I made earlier about polity orientation.

N/A

Not sure.

Meet in person. Most effective and sharing experiences and discussions together face to face is best.

I think some simple short videos describing the GA process and highlighting the work of the denominational office in the GA process would be helpful. I also think the PCUSA needs to state the obvious more clearly in the assembly--we diverse people are here for a purpose to serve Christ and church above and before any other

Having committee meetings in person really facilitated my getting to know fellow participants and sharing perspectives during meals and breaks. I am concerned that having committee meetings on Zoom will not support that. By the time you're in plenary sessions, things move faster. BUT, I may be wrong since the plenary sessions were on Zoom, and I couldn't WAIT to get away from my laptop at breaks and move around a little. So there was

One way that the General Assembly can be helpful to future participants is to adequately communicate the amount of time that is or will be required of commissioners. This General Assembly required a tremendous time commitment on the part of commissioners. With the 226th GA also being a hybrid-type of Assembly, I think it As a first timer, I really missed not being able to attend the worship and plenaries in person, however I was Three weeks was a long time. Shorten to two weeks.

Really cannot think of anything right now.

Ensure that new participants talk with prior participants. Group discussions would be ideal.

I really appreciate the hybrid approach. It allows for more flexible time use.

No suggestions. I commend the GA staff for doing an excellent job in supporting participants' needs throughout

Prepare future participants with details of what exactly will be expected of them and the technological

Committee assignments were much too late. They need to be communicated earlier, so that substantive

content and information may be sent to us earlier. I also felt the end of the assembly felt very very weird and

exclusive. The commissioners watched the celebration at the Presbyterian Center online, but felt very excluded!

During the plenaries some commissioners were called on numerous times to speak on different issues while

others weren't even called on once even when there were multiple commissioners waiting in line to speak

Bring back in-person engagement on committees and plenaries. Having the assembly decide the fate of the 2024

assembly was a mistake. I understand why COGA decided to do this but a committee with other responsibilities

did not/could not have had the time necessary time to make a wise decision. I personally dread the next GA

because online committees (at least without an extraordinary amount of imagination and courage which I think

we may be lacking!) make no sense. PC Biz and Zoom are both fine tools but they cannot replace the in person

value of struggling together through the work. The most important thing to do prior to nominating committees

What are some aspects we can improve on or consider for future General Assemblies?Â

If at all possible go back to in person and have vendors and seminars as well as agency of PCUSA present. As I noted earlier, Committees that took the time and effort to perfect their items of business fared better in the plenaries, i.e., more focus on the substance of IOBs. With Plan Omega, I would urge heightened training and preparation for Committee leadership, perhaps drawing on asking this year's leadership teams what worked and what didn't. Again, please restore GA to in person. I felt somewhat cut off during much of the GA, and zoom fatigue is a real problem for me. I'm sure I am not the only one to have this experience. I guess I felt like my voice was not heard. And I had no recourse for that. So it was frustrating. The most beautiful moment at GA for me was the reading of the litany of confession for the sin of slavery. Thank you for that. The Holy Spirit was there, for sure. I'm keeping things moving. So much repetition of comments and overly detailed presentation of items of business in some cases. Discussion is essential and language is important but hours of discussion over some basic language (i.e. shall vs may) is not a good use of time. Once an item of business has been acted on it's done and should not be allowed to be brought back up for further amendments. This includes items passed in the consent agenda. To have authorities available to answer questions is critical but is it necessary to have each speak on the

Do not ever make commissioner's stay on Zoom for 12 hours a day/ 5 days in a row (the breaks were not a relief-straight through would have been less taxing). I was interrupted the entire time by church and family. I felt like a complete failure in my service to the church, to OGA and to my family.

Like I said in #42 some better care for commissioners on their own, A couple of meals of my choice would have been nice-but better community building is needed. The space for those who were/are marginalized is very important-they need extra care-but I would have welcomed a few crumbs from the table. Another thing is I tried to get ahold of a chaplain after hours-there was no one-until the next day- The chaplain did respond then-but I'm not sure. Honoring the work of committees and limiting personal agendas.

I think my main frustration was in training we were told to hold space and give those whose voice isn't always heard a chance to be heard. I held to that, but not everyone else did. I was hearing from the same people in plenary over and over. I know there were lots of people waiting to speak that had never spoken and were never heard. 1) Find a way to reduce a long daily stretch. 2) Find a way to make GA more than parliamentary stuff and make it inspirational. 3) Find a way to reduce the number of votes during GA plenary. 4) Fit agendas for maximum 8 hours a day for three days, not five days. A bulk of work was done during in-person committee work. I am offering feedback on my first-time experience as a commissioner. No one prepared me for this week's schedule. I love the idea of online committees and in person plenary. If this year's model is ever offered again, there should be daily worship for the gathered body.

The biggest frustration was the lack of good handshake with the co-moderators, the technology, and parliamentary procedure. I am happy to let grace abound, but we shouldn't have needed this much. I hope the co-moderators will pass on to the next co-moderators their insights about how to limit conversation appropriately both as to who speaks and for how long. They figured it out by Thursday, but some guidance should have been in place Tuesday.

I was very disappointed with the way time was stewarded during plenary gatherings. We spent a lot of time on less important matters while very important work was left to the end and little discussion was held. I wish bigger items were earlier in the docket so they could get the attention they deserve.

Ask commissioners/delegates to record their pronunciation of their names and/or provide phonetic spellings of their names, in advance. If possible, please send them to committee moderators/vice moderators, as well as those standing to be co-moderators of the GA. It was painful to hear the co-moderators butcher the pronunciations of some of the commissioners' or advisory delegates' names. Provide BIPOC spaces in advance of the GA, to create community. Help set expectations of commissioners/advisory delegates regarding their ability and need to weigh in on items of business during the plenary sessions. Perhaps, there should be covenants or guidelines for communication that are reviewed at the beginning of the plenary sessions, and periodic reminders throughout. The 225GA co-moderators were trying to provide guidelines, as well as remind people about Standards of Ethical Conduct. But, covenants or guidelines for communication cover other aspects that are not

Have more practice ahead of time with the technical requirements, using similar situations. Once learned, it is quite simple. A schematic for signing in each day would be helpful, e.g. Step 1 Step 2 Step 3, etc. with an example of what one might see on the screen at each step. The instructions did say this but not with screen My Presbytery assured that our reps (Commissioners and YAAD) had the requisite tech skills to manage this hybrid assembly. It seems that may not have been the case for all Presbyteries. The tech constraints experienced on Thursday seem to have been caused by a combination of a desire to speed up the business to be sure of accomplishing it, and the sheer number of requests being processed. Time seems to be the key here... I've already mentioned the technology but some of the challenge was my own lack of tech saavy. Overall, I The PC Biz lags/lapses were difficult. People felt rushed to get amendments in, and because of that often they were not well crafted and needed to be revised. This was frustrating and time consuming. Getting in the queue was "iffy" at time. I had at least one amendment that due to my expertise would have been useful, but some of the queue clearing between motions, motions to amend, etc. clear people out of the queues without making that know (so we could request recognition gain. So primarily the process for submitting amendments could use Find some way to speed up the voting. More testimonies to the power of God working through the church like the Matthew 25 video. Find a format that doesn't require so much time away. The time commitment makes GA I did have some frustrations over the many motions and amendments that came forward and needed to be considered. While I can appreciate having all voices heard, sometimes the minutiae of words just drove me crazy. While we are doing due diligence, I sometimes wanted to just take the recommendation from the N/a

Make sure that committee mbs who, at the last minute, are unable to attend in person can still participate in decision making. The same would apply to any commissioners who are unable to be in person for any parts of This is important and holy work, and I am honored to have served as a commissioner. However, the time commitment and the schedule are onerous and rule out participation for many people. Teaching elders who serve their churches full time are paid for their service to the larger church. I hope you can find a way to create I appreciate the challenges we are all facing and commend all who made this event possible. My experience overall was very negative, but I do not blame anyone for that and believe that every effort was made to keep people safe and accomplish the important business of the church. For me there were two major problems: first, I was not fully briefed on how much time this would involve (in truth, had I known I would have declined because I couldn't take that much time away from my job). The second problem is that for me the Zoom environment is very discouraging. I feel disconnected from the people on the screen and am distracted by the many demands Make sure to do all of it in person.

I'll say it again... GA NEEDS to be mostly in-person. It's fine to offer technology to those who CHOOSE not to attend in person (for whatever reason), but there is way too much lost in translation with the technology we had this last week. Again, this is NOT the fault of the Technology Team (who did an AMAZING job). Much of it was out of their control. Commissioners who live in remote/rural areas and have sketchy/questionable internet service are at an extreme disadvantage. I honestly don't feel that GA-MC-15 was handled well at all. It felt REALLY rushed. And after pondering it for an hour or so after adjournment, it felt to me like there were "powers that be" behind the scenes who were "pulling the strings" of the Moderators. (Kind of like "pay no attention to the man behind the curtain"?) I sincerely hope and pray that there will be consideration of these issues over the 1) I would have appreciated getting slightly earlier communication about tech. and vaccination requirements would have been appreciated. 2) If/when large things like plenary are happening online, please slow down a bit so that people coming in from various distances and working with a variety of internet speeds can get questions typed in, be placed into queues, etc. I noticed that the times we sped up wait times tended to result in attempts

No suggestions

I LOVED the spiritual and emotional coaching of the co-moderators. Without that, I very well may have 'bailed out' (without cash!!!!) WITH THAT, it was a spiritual and emotional growth experience!

Just keep doing you are doing well.

Excellent job

See previous comment.

I don't have a suggestion but here is a part of my experience that might illuminate an area for improvement. I am a Teaching Elder who had to leave a position because of how the head of staff handled or mishandled my family leave after the birth of my daughter. The discussion on family leave caused a lot of anxiety and painful memories. I continue to work in the same presbytery and have a collegial relationship with the former head of staff. Knowing that he could watch GA or others from my Presbytery might watch kept me from being willing to share my experience with the body. I also know others who are my age and have children or want to have children who are facing similar situations where they have to choose between having a job and taking the time

Keep working on technology. Having time to explore the city would be nice because that's the excitement of In person everything

I was satisfied with the General Assembly. As I have already said involving youth in the General Assembly will

Not a lot at all, I thought that the 225th GA was well thought out and I felt that the committee made preparations for travel easy. I felt that the committee put a lot of thought into my comfort and ease in maneuvering the entire experience. I appreciate the thoughtful gifts from the Foundation, my Presbytery, at registration and even the thoughtfulness of handing out umbrellas when the weather called for rain. I could not

The zoom in committees was cumbersome, glitchy, and made the conversations very hard to understand. It would have been better to have a room monitor and sound like plenary ewas on the first day than all

Just as an aside which may never be needed - for Bills and Overtures, it was very difficult to get a read of the committee room when I was on Zoom and the committee was together in person. This will be different in 226th with the committees meeting on Zoom, but it could still be a strange experience to not know exactly the feel of the room. But with a smaller group, Zoom is (generally) easier to handle and manage. Also, Session Sync didn't work seamlessly. And that was frustrating in the virtual reality we found ourselves in. This, once again, will likely

Plenary was REALLY challenging online. We ran into lots of people who didn't get a chance to speak. There is something much more effective with the standing in line at the mics to make sure people aren't missed in

I think I've covered this. The more in person experience, the better. Moderators who know how to moderate and encourage participation and interaction--break into small groups! Allow time to discuss how to bring the decisions back to the people in the pews. I would also spend much less--maybe no--time making pronouncements and denouncements. Those days are over. The world does not care what a shrinking denomination thinks. We need to focus on how we can be effective. The issues are huge and we are still

Especially with GA-MC 15, people's voices were not heard and unfortunately the assembly voted to move on than rather hear those voices. In moderating or in advising the moderator(s) careful attention needs to be given to who is in the cue to speak, offer motions or to have questions answered. I understand this is a balance with

To improve GA, my first suggestion would once again be to make trainings closer together. As I stated previously, having trainings that start in MAY (making the event from May-July) makes it hard to attend everything, even if you really want to. This is especially the case for younger people who have jobs, school, and bigger social lives.

For YAADs, you could also even have less trainings-we learn a lot faster being younger. Of course with committees, I understand it will naturally be more spread out. However, any attempt at making it closer would be appreciated. I also wish YAADs were heard more throughout the event (better communication). I wanted to make a commissioner's resolution for animal rights, but it was difficult to get in touch with people to make this happen. Besides not being able to access the group postings for CRs, I tried to email staff and multiple people took days to respond back. By the time I received an answer, it was just a few days before CRs were due. This was discouraging for me, as a young person who has a passionate idea they want to get across. Furthermore,

The entirety of General Assembly needs to be in-person.

I served on EJ Committee. The outside ADVOCATES for our work were TOTALLY imbalanced as to their opinions and advocacy. This was a very poor way to get quality results from our Committee in my opinion. I would

This denomination will continue to die as long as political agendas take priority over local congregation health

--all virtual or district gatherings for parts --more quiet time during worship....zoom is hard format for singing; better to let us listen and pray --would like a few more tangible resources; pastors need to be equipped to explain to their congregations; help them with easy to use scripts, especially for controversial topics. Don't put

The PC Biz Queue

This format worked well to have committee live and plenary virtual. Find a space large enough to have all the committees meet the same week so it is not spread over 3 weeks. That very thing limited the participation of Honestly, the more in-person it is, the better it will work. I would also suggest more transparency as to who is in the queue in PC-Biz. All we see are numbers and when we see lots of numbers in the agreement/disagreement queues and we hear " I think we can move along" with the question being called, it does not help. If we saw that the queues were full of frequent fliers / speakers, it would really help our perception of why the moderators are Most of the comments made by previous commissioners were about the fellowship and comradely built outside of the actual business. More intentionality and planning is needed for the non-business activities opportunities for participants. More interface opportunities with the other agencies - BOP, PDA, etc.

more indentail networking and time.together

- going down the rabbit hole of amendments to amendments. We spent an inordinate amount of time word-smithing several overtures, and I am not convinced we ended up with the best amendments in the end. - allowing for a more balanced debate on some issues. For example, the heads of agencies always seemed to get the final word (such as Frank Spencer). In particular, I felt that the debate around "categorical divestment" (itself a biased terminology placed upon the issue by BOP) was not fair. This was not only in plenary but in committee, too. I felt he over-stepped the bounds of his role, misled the committee, and unfairly influenced the outcome. His presence and role was by far and away the most disappointing aspect of my GA experience. And, Maybe rotating - in person; online ; hybrid? Or maybe go to GA every 3 years? 4 years?

Better allocation of time and resources. Working past 11:00 p.m. each night was hard on the East Coast

Optional gathering times for prayer and praise. A directory of individuals in attendance.

Leadership training for Committee moderators. The work done in committees is crucial. Group dynamics and a sense of community must be established from the beginning. If Committee meetings are going to be virtual, Allow participants to pay for their own upgrades to travel arrangements. I was forced to miss a PW Synod function b/c of the airline reservation restrictions. I appealed the request and was denied. Our PW Synod Gathering was forced to find another speaker & leader b/c I couldn't get home in time(even though I offered to I think it might be a good idea to include some BIPOC folk in the technology area.

I thought the General Assembly was well run. My only issue was the length of the plenaries. Couldn't be helped

I think the beyond-the-scene wizards are already aware of the frustration we had a times of seeing folks in the parliamentary toolbox wanting to be recognized to speak that seemingly weren't visible to the moderators. I understand there are some logistical reasons for that - folks with questions that were better sent to someone other than the moderators, or waiting for a motion language to show up in the language. Perhaps that same

I have already mentioned activities for TEs and having a listing of which overtures would be in which planery session. Here are some others. 1. In both committee and planery sessions, have the person getting ready to speak to give their name, role, presbytery, and state. Many times the name of the presbytery does not give a clue of what state they are from. 2. Give a better explanation of the advisory delegates and "Hands and Feet". Perhaps this is neglect on my part, but I had never heard of some of these until they were a part of the committee or appeared on the agenda. In our church and presbytery, these things are known by the TEs but don't get passed down to REs. 3. Add a "Top" button or feature when you are on SessionSync. If you have

For the most part everything seems to have been given a lot of thought and preparation so I had a very good experience. My only disappointment was the lack of opportunity to participate in the plenary meetings. I am aware that time was of essence, there was the attempt to hear from people across the church per location but my observations: some people were recognized repeatedly; people of color, although attempted, were not recognized as much (per their sharing); people who may have had more to contribute based on their location or ethnicity which could be determined by the moderators making the decisions and those helping them were not always given recognition. For instance when certain topics came up for discussion recognizing those more closely associated thus having more pertinent information to add should have been intentionally given access.

Allotting time for better scheduling of work -- committee schedules were manageable in the context of a normal work day, although I imagine committee chairs had a lot of homework to do each evening. The on-line plenary sessions ending 12-14 hours later was just a lot. I think the hour-long breaks extended the day and would recommend an earlier start even if it slightly inconveniences some west coast folks. It felt as though we got bogged down in procedural matters too often, which in the end, did not improve the access of different voices.

More communication in writing More transparency when entities are disagreeing with one another. More time The amount of walking was a hindrance, even within the Galt House. Better communication about the registration room. I found out about it by accident and could have easily not have been given my meals credit card. If handing out clothing items, ask ahead what size each person needs and hold it by name to be picked up. I did not get a t-shirt because there were none in my size. Plus, we were asked to specifically wear it on a I had a long wait at the airport arrival for the hotel shuttle to arrive at the credentials desk closed early, adding stress to Day 1 of committee work I was moderating.

I do not think I fully understood the time and prep requirements, although it all came together. It was part of dissemination of faith and hope to all presbyterian. most people at least in my congregation com to church to sell their product and services. or mostly of the people they are better off financially try to gain social and political power. I find it hard to believe what we speak on Sunday school about everything but desire of God almighty about common issue of our society (gun violence racism, drugs, homeless hunger war and....) may be I enjoyed being able to follow other committees after my committee was finished. This really helped for when when were meeting in plenary. So a staggered committee schedule for the 225th was helpful. I know from previous assemblies that would not have been possible, since all of the committees were meeting at the same time. For future assemblies having resource people available sooner might speed the time up. PC-BIZ would have been nice acknowledge that my questions had been received and that someone had read them. Sometimes they never got answered or asked by the moderators. I did notice at times that I seconded motions that the timer was slow or I would have to resubmit. I think some of the committee overtures should have been advised Educate presbyters that they may be called on to represent their presbyteries at GA and so should follow actions Not sure. Staff was welcoming and helpful.

I cannot think of any as I was so impressed with how the technology worked, the quick responses of resource people and the spiritual leadership throughout the assembly.

Lack of mics. Committee leaders passing back and forth and not knowing if mics were on. Also leases not sure of While ZOOM is not ideal, I do feel that it can be utilized even more

I think we decided the correct way to do it in two years Plenaries in person - it was very impersonal on line, but a small group as a committee can build some community online. We needed more breaks of the sitting time. maybe is timing was set on the Central time it may be more fair for everyone Pacific or Eastern is the extreme Can we consider the amount of time investment the average person has to put in to being a Commissioner? I think we also should limit debate time. I found it disturbing that committee's did so much work but then at plenary time someone else would submit so many other motions and amendments. The people in those committee's worked hard and had to listen to others to come to the decisions they made and I feel their I am sure smarter people than I are already thinking

I like the idea of Committee Meetings online on Zoom and the Plenary in person. Nothing can compare to starting each day with worship with several hundreds of Presbyterian siblings.

Make it easier for fuller participation by YAADS.

I feel like there are too many presentations during the assembly. I get that they are important, but taking 10-15 minutes every hour or so to hear from an organization or new elected person is just not all the interesting when there is work to be done. I'd almost rather have it wait till the end or be grouped closer together.

Higher quality community building in committee or smaller groups. If committees are remote, then include time in committee for community at the start of the assembly. Otherwise, there may be no relationships building outside of who you come with (who you may already know). Alternative dialogue methods in committees that get to Robert's Rule and order eventually, but solicit more engagement along the way. I am an extrovert and I am Presbyterian because we engage. I know not everyone is like me, but I was frustrated that there were people. A greater exaltation of Jesus Christ our Lord would improve the G.A.

I would like the opportunity to share all meals together. The lunch breaks during the committee meetings were a nice way to get to know each other. I was at a loss as to where to go for breakfast. It would have been nice to have a continental breakfast at the Presbyterian Center. That was all. Everything else was so well organized and When IOB's are being presented during plenary, it should be mandatory that resource persons be available on Zoom or in person in order to manage the time efficiently.

Creating a relaxed moment, taking participants on a tour of the city. Create a special moment in an auditorium for questions and answers, just to develop GA awareness, integration, and an opportunity to be heard and to There was a distinct lack of debate from this assembly. Many times in the group chats or online forums where we said "wait! What just happened?" So though I believe we made good decisions I am unconvinced that debate was truly fair and equitable. Also PC-biz is clunky. Trying to understand where to find information was difficult and sometimes the information was not correct. The schedule wasn't always updated to reflect real time. I'm grateful main Plenary is in person. A few times my internet threatened to go out. Those with poor access to internet are kept from participating fully. Please keep this in mind when structuring committees. An informal GA after dark happened each night. These types of groups were awesome and provided great support. If they don't Moderators need to see the zoom screen so they can get a better sense of the room and see our faces. There were times when our faces visibly reflected the frustration of moving too fast. I'm proud of the assembly for finding ways to support one another and of the creative ways many made this work. If we have to do plenary online again I'd like to see this expand into ways that are offered to anyone at assembly. Zoom rooms for exhibits, after dark GA parties, messenger chats, hashtags that we know about, invitations to join the

Please train the moderators in how to moderate meetings. So often no one felt sure of what we were voting on. On Friday, we voted for a second time a motion that had passed on Thursday. If the vote had not stayed in the affirmative - that would have CLEARLY been a problem. Motions were missed - we must have reconsidered 5 or more items of business that we thought were complete. I have deep concerns that the commissioners voted on some things that the ACC of the church recommended against in their discussions. I am concerned for how this More frequent pick ups from the airport.

See above for re-thinking the entire format of General Assembly, especially in light of the merger of PMA and OGA. If we really utilize two-year commissioners, we might be able to eliminate or reduce the number of national committees and boards. We just don't have enough people to populate all of those committees and boards anymore. Let's really think creatively. Also, is there any way to get out of the adversarial nature of Robert's Rules? I watched people I love trash each other online and behind the scenes over things that might

I *loved* the diversity of participation. I would have loved more creativity and variation in the worship services, tho. Other than the music (which was fabulous) and Suyon Son's artwork, the worship services were a bit flat.

Break up long stretches of work (90+ min) with short breaks (5-10 min). Tell "presbyterian" jokes. Use as interstitial transitions: Did you know? PresbyFacts/factoids about demographics, mission outreach, ecumenical partners, history; PPC best sellers; BOP brags; etc. Two truths and a lie -- about up-front leaders; You Know You

The technology was very frustrating at plenary - many people left the first couple of days feeling unheard. I am not sure how it happened, but there were a handful of people that were recognized sooooo many times and
Make sure that the accommodations are what they should be. The Galt House was unclean - garbage in the elevators, my sheets were stained and I needed to request new ones when I got there. The restaurants were not open the posted hours, nor did they have sufficient food when they were open, so most of the menu items were
I want to praise the job that the Co-Moderators of GA did under new & tough circumstances. Their partnership, sensitivity to when to take a pause to pray or breathe was critical, and their absolute fairness & openness was exactly what was needed. It was tough doing the full plenary online, but it did provide the ability to see all those we might not see up close in a large in-person plenary like Kerry Rice, Tricia, doing an amazing job as Parliamentarian, the daily Fin update report team etc. I moved thru mixed conclusions that the tedious arguments & votes over a single word or phrase often seemed to be missing the point of the full recommendation or point, but then could see that the value of those who need to get the word right being able
Somehow allot time for committees to talk, debate or interact regarding issues. Parliamentary procedures do not allow a sense of really addressing issues. Two minutes is not enough time to offer your input without rebuttal or conversation. And not being allowed to speak a second time is not appropriate even in Robert's Rules. The Moderators stated that if you had spoken before on other issues you would be placed lower on
If you ever go back to virtual plenary, find some sort of way to have everyone being viewing the same session sync as the moderators, whether it is show on zoom or something similar. It would be helpful than to see there are glitches in the system. Being able to see who is lined up to speak (name, role, presbytery), as I think this would help the body decide if they are ready to move on or not when calling the question. Also, I think better planning of time used would have been a benefit for this GA. Part of my frustration for this assembly was how we rushed through numerous items (including cutting off the story of a sexual abuse survivor) as we became so far behind on business. I understand the struggles of virtual work like this in numerous time zones and how much easier it is to adjust plenary schedules when we are all in one place. I would hope in the future there would be plans made to consider how a schedule could be adjusted, if needed, to allow the time needed to do this holy
Upon arrival if there would be a meeting space within the hotels GA participants could meet and work on their scripts, or just hang out and not be communicating GA business openly in public. If one so chooses.
Can't think of anything. Seems to me that you checked every box in preparation and even during the meeting, worked diligently to address any and all concerns that were either planned or not planned. I did find it refreshing to hear popular secular music during the pauses in our work. Many of the songs were a reflection on
I would highly consider including advisory delegate votes. I know it's often been the ruling that they are simply advising the commissioners, but it would make them feel that they are actually a part of the community. This could take the form of including the advisory vote but counting the numbers that are included within that vote.
be together in person open to observers display area fellowship lunches, diners and just hanging out together
Because this was my first experience, I'm unable to give any constructive criticisms.

N/A

Have all delegates worship together in two worship services: One to begin General Assembly and the other to
The technology is going to take some continued work and patience. It seemed that there was some frustration around motions and questions that were submitted via PCBiz and not seen even as it was clear that this was not intentional. Continuing to educate folks about the complexity of the system and slowing down moderation will
I have already listed in the body of the survey the very few items I believe would be helpful. My experience was much more positive than I anticipated. My committee (MOV) Co-Moderators, Patrice Cummings and Gusti Newquist were marvelous in their sensitivity and in keeping us on point, as well as eliciting participation.
I am a senior enough person in my organization to be able to take PTO for General Assembly and have left over, but it was a lot of time. That's unavoidable so long as we continue with hybrid GAs.

You just cannot spend 14 hours a day for 5 days on Zoom. Particularly when the PC-BIZ site seemed to lag. It was unclear what we were voting on sometimes; clearly the moderators were unclear if things were moved and seconded, and then the recognition of speakers. Two voices dominated GA. The Advisory Delegate were totally sidelined. If we are not in person to speak them, all they can do is vote off in the corner. The Plenary MUST be in person. The Committee work needs a primer. The Work flow needs a primer. GA junkies are all fine and good, but for those of us out in the world there is so much that is not intuitive and not well understood. How the various entities (PMA, OGA, A Corp, and the rest) relate to one another? NO BODY EXPLAINS THAT. Also if Don't do omega lol.

We are a community, but we also don't need to waste money. The thought of amount of money that we could save now that virtual meetings are a possibility should make us all happy. Those dollars could do a lot of good. Also does the Omega plan have hotel rooms assigned as singles or doubles. I am still friends with my roommate I feel like holding portions of Assemblies virtually is problematic. Not only is it difficult (might I say an inconvenience and even bold to ask persons around the globe to convene late at night or in the middle of the night) to accommodate different time zones, but having committee work 1 week and plenaries another involves closer to 2 weeks away from work - quite prohibitive for many potential attendees. At least when traveling to a location for all of GA, attendees have the convenience of adapting to the time zone for a brief time without Since this was my first GA, I don't know what all in-person would require, but I like having half on zoom and half in-person. And I like that this saves some money over the all in-person method.

Improve PC Biz so that delays are reduced.

Nothing

I would have liked a way to look at the resolution while trying to make a motion. I found making motions to be cumbersome and especially during the plenaries, it was difficult to keep track of everything.

GA is designed for REs and TEs. We have thousands of people involved in our churches who aren't serving in those capacities who are still leaders. How can we loop in Deacons or life long volunteers in this process? Are we making this accessible for the working poor? We can't say we want to serve the poor without having their voices

The General Assembly is the deliberative body of the PC(U.S.A.). Continuity would be improved if Commissioners were elected to longer terms covering at least two GA's. As we move toward online format because of expense and convenience, consider annual sessions again. It would improve our church's

I felt that many the discussions, both in committee and plenary, got short circuited because people were more interested in getting their way, via motion or amendment. The times when people were allowed to work together to perfect something was better. I do believe that staff/moderators need to help people realize that many issues are not either/or but both/and. As well, instead of simply saying "let's take a breath", I think folk can help to frame the discussion in a way that focuses more toward a win/win. I appreciated the time when a pastor, I believe from Kentucky, noted that her members recognized the need to move to cleaner energy but it

The galt house has terrible customer service not a great place for us to stay.

My fellow commissioner remembered when you had folks who visited with those lined up in support or disagreement of a motion, to let them know whether they were adding new information or repeating what would be said ahead of them. (if repeating, they were asked to withdraw) That might have been helpful, and challenging on-line. Plenary being live next time (Omega form) this might be helpful to do. Maybe schedule a training for white people on being pleased to be white at the same time welcoming people of the global Having online plenaries for so many days and for such long days was extremely difficult even for a techie like me.

I was just struck by the polarized nature of motions and speakers - they often were either extremely emotionally heartfelt with little business recommendations for improving language, or they were sterile and all business. Is there a way to coach people into a medium space? I was frustrated in committee when attempting to make an amendment for designating responsibility only to be met with obvious emotional reaction because of other language, which I felt was warranted but didn't offer a practical amendment to improve things. How do we help people use their feelings to improve our documents/recommendations/motions? It felt like in committee there were a handful trying to tie the business in with the sentiments being made, and a different handful who just wanted to share their feelings... maybe that's the way of the business??? Also it was frustrating to not have airport travel available by OGA for Sunday morning, as many had early flights and needed rides to the airport. It seemed to me that despite the excellent staffing for the plenaries, there was often frustration with the PC-Biz process. I don't know if it was a technical issue (if so, maybe there needed to be more hard-wired computers available - I am not a techie, so take that with a grain of salt.) or if we simply needed to allow for a slower- See previous answer on SessionSync. Providing anticipated ending times would be helpful for communicating with family. Production Team -- they were outstanding. I very much appreciated all the moving parts and their ability to keep things moving professionally. Trish Dykers Koenig -- she deserves a medal! She was an excellent Reflecting on the way GA 225 ended, in a way I felt like I was there with everyone. Hopefully that can happen. Please see my comments above about limiting length of plenaries, eliminating online sessions, and moving toward more live, person-to-person engagement. The GA is a meeting of the church and a valuable tool for understanding our diversity, building community, gaining new perspectives, etc. It is not simply a place to crank through "business" but is an aid to our unity! Most people never have many opportunities for this kind of national-level exchange and we should take advantage of the time to be able to do that. More special interest groups or caucus time should be built in. Please also train everyone on the best ways to get things done (not always trying to amend the language of the constitution!). Provide opportunities and space for people of similar Do in-person only and make provisions for some people to choose to engage online. Forcing online makes the I believe an in-person/traditional assembly is the ideal way to conduct the meeting. Yet, I know there are a number of reasons, including environmental and financial stewardship, justifying a hybrid model. Omega will provide for a better plenary experience, but commissioners will find it more challenging to build relationships that will foster trust and allow for equitable participation in committees. Either hybrid option requires a greater investment of time while diminishing the relational character of the assembly. It will be interesting to see how Again I say, keep the format like it was for this year. It works.

Technology is great. However, please remember that when people are participating from home they may not have multiple devices for use. Some of us are fortunate to have a laptop, desktop, tablet and cellphone. Also, if various programs are being used, have adequate training. Don't assume everyone is proficient with Dropbox and Google Docs. Committee Moderators should have the same training as committee assistants who are writing the I thought the format of 225 was appropriate for the pandemic circumstances. I thought the technology worked very well for meetings. During training, the Help Desk staff seemed very knowledgeable and were very kind to We were elected in November 2021. First notice from PCUSA, I believe, was in February 2022. (I do realize that the hybrid meeting was being organized.) We certainly had not been informed about the extent to which we would be required to use technological devices. I would love to have had more specific guidance on what I should be reading, why I should be reading it, and where I would find those resources. When you receive print materials, it's pretty simple to know what to read and review and digest. With computerized materials, one doesn't always know where to go or even what one should be finding. I'll admit that I'm not an explorer on the Accommodations were less than good at Galt House. Also restaurants served me catsup with bugs crawling out of Maybe have a continental breakfast at the site. It was hard to find an affordable breakfast.

I know COVID put a damper on some things. I think it would be helpful to have social offerings during down time. We did socialize and lunch and on breaks so it's not like we didn't get to know each other. Maybe something at Go back to a GA that meets in person for the entire time. Allow more dissenting or opposing positions on issues

Being in person is a great advantage.

It was sometimes confusing to understand what was being considered or potentially amended. So PC-Biz could use an upgrade, or at least more training to use. Also, using Zoom while meeting in person was awkward

One organized social time - could be within committees, or have 2 groups if hybrid GA needs to happen.

Balance secular political agendas with full information for discernment. Avoid supporting marginalized participants to the exclusion and marginalizing of other representatives. Avoid creating divisions. Be more centrist on secular issues. Or empower representatives to provide countering or tempering information.

The only concrete way I can suggest is to work through the amendment/action process. There was no uniformity in making motions, and the provided process created difficulty in doing this. I think a template including the verbal parts would help make the process easier and better and help people not feel so intimidated. I spoke to this earlier in this survey. It can be daunting to get out in front of everyone, especially if your thoughts/participation are not valued (as I felt). Some commissioners seemed to be given favoritism to come

I hope we can get to a point where masks are not required for in person activities. Especially if we continue to require vaccinations, which I support. There are also ways we could improve PC-Biz, such as making it possible to view amendments and substitute resolutions alongside the resolutions they are seeking to amend/replace. Sometimes it was difficult to dig through and find the language that was being considered on a given action, as only the suggested amendment or change would be visible without going deep into the previous action. I think the Parliamentary toolbox is well designed though, and understand the difficulty the moderators might have had

Training on parliamentary procedures would be helpful prior to committee work. There was often confusion on During plenary in Session Sync there were times when we as commissioners could see people lined up to ask questions, speak to motions, or make motions. I know the moderators saw different things than we did, but it felt like there was little to no discussion on several items. That people were just left waiting in the queue and the moderators would call for the vote. I am not unhappy with most of the votes we took, but I'm sure there are folks who are who felt their voices were silenced. It was incredibly frustrating to see people waiting to speak, or Give more information so that commissioners can do their research.

YAAD experience. Where were they? Improvement in lunch - by the time my committee arrived the food choices were poor. Although I understand it was much improved, the initial quality was not good. Snacks should have some kind of healthy option...fruit? There was no one to direct folks walking prior to 9am. There were no I thought all the staff, oga, etc did a great job. The videos were great to illustrate the work of ,PCUSA and overtures etc Liked hands and feet panels and discussions and videos opened my eyes to injustice and racism of There were times I had thoughts or comments about a particular item of business but didn't feel like I had the opportunity to express it. Perhaps on the "Seek Recognition" list you could have a button where folks can say whether or not they concur with the item or disagree without addressing the entire assembly. I believe the chat feature was shut off from the Zoom platform. It would be nice to have that feature open to participants to express their ideas. It would most definitely have to be supervised and equity primes vigorously enforced. I Not sure what to say here due to all that was done to keep us Covid safe. On that end it was done very well.

PC-Biz worked great for the voting, although would be better if time needed for response decreased. Would consider having committees Zoom due to the cost savings.

The Website was very confusing to me. It wasn't until day 4 that I figured out where the link was for the worship the welcome at the hotel was hard to find. That may have been a function of the hotel but I wandered for a while (thinking there would be signs) before I found it. After flying and getting there I was not remembering everything in the emails so a person or small sign reminding me that check in was in the other tower would have

I wish we could do some work on common struggles---PCUSA churches, as a trend, are getting smaller and older. Congregations are having difficulties post-COVID with lost momentum. Many pastors are feeling discouraged. We are facing adaptive challenges and it would be good to develop some collective strategies for action and training. Many congregations feel detached from General Assembly and it would be wonderful to offer some direct resources, training, and ideas that would meet current struggles and could add to the vitality of our congregations. We make beautiful statements with sound theology at General Assembly, but we need to reflect on how to put our faith into action. The Hands and Feet is one way that we can serve, but I also believe we need This may be trivial, but it isn't clear on PC-Biz how to make a motion that is procedural (like reconsider, postpone, etc.). The options are motion to amend or process - not clear what that is for. An opportunity for small group discussions on challenging items before debate and vote. This could have been done using Zoom rooms. I assume it will be easier at in-person plenaries. Limit the number of times a task force member or advocate can talk on an issue. For example, the members of the sexual misconduct task force had way too many interactions. Polity questions should have been handled by the parliamentarian or the ACC. The moderators cut off debate too soon in many instances in the interest of expediency rather than following the equity primes that may have 12 -hour days on Zoom is too much!

The selection of preachers for worship services did not appear to be very thoughtful. Some were not very skilled/talented. Interesting to observe that in a denomination that is 91% white, no white males were invited to preach. Only 1 white male teaching elder was invited to pray-he was on the GA staff. Had all the invited preachers been great, that would have been fine but a few of them seemed quite inept at preaching. As much as "replacement theory" is mocked in progressive circles, a message was sent loud and clear that the input of white males is not welcome. There is no longer any attempt to be a "big tent"-OGA and PMA staff seem to want to erase people from the PC(USA) who are not uber-progressive. Even the moderators seemed to struggle to Answered in previous questions.

1. The zoom plenary meetings worked. However the dynamics were not nearly as conducive to debate and discussion as the in-person plenaries in past years. I had the feeling some outcomes may have been different if the plenaries were in-person. 2. The parliamentary process and the voting process were terrible. There was too much dead time during the voting to hold my attention. The standing rules need to be modified so that the I don't know how this can be accomplished, but I was concerned with questions from commissioners for information that was clearly in the Rationale or supporting documents. There was at least one IOB with a large number of questions that were clearly available in the information in PC-Biz. Just a thought -- in the PC-Biz training module, a sample IOB with Rationale and supporting documents with a question asking where specific information is found? I found the online training modules very helpful. They were confusing at times when it indicated I had not completed an item, but checking on each item in the module showed 'completed'. Some I understand that this is a difficult time to know where and how to have GA. I think that having the committee meetings on Zoom would be very difficult. Our committee gathered together the first day as relative strangers given the responsibility of making decisions. It was the togetherness and listening to others as they shared that All in person, different cities.

More specific direction as to what exactly commissioners should do regarding specific committee work prior to arrival on-site. It's certainly possible that other committees received more direction ahead of time. I hope that's Despite the assembly's action on MC-15, I honestly do not think it is possible to know what conditions will obtain in Salt Lake City for 2024. Christianity is incarnational, so in-person is ideal, but we know we need to love our Be sure moderators are aware of how much lag there can be for on-line sessions, e.g. typically there is a 1-3 second delay from when someone speaks and when on-line participants hear it. Add in interpretation and For this GA it might have been useful to have an "I am going to seek recognition, but I'm typing (motion/question)" alert to let the Moderators know to wait, yet limit time needed to move on when no one is getting ready to seek recognition. I suspect those with lower than average typing skills may have self limited

I'm an older Christian, in my seventh decade; the hours were grueling especially at the assembly. This year we had a lot of work to finish from 2018 and 2020. In many mid-councils (Presbyteries) we have a council set up to handle issues in-between Stated Meetings. These decisions can be reviewed by the assembly and changed if

This year's plenary sessions felt extremely isolating and frustrating. First, there were multiple instances of technical issues with PC Biz which caused people to be unable to participate but because the Co-Moderators were unaware that the issues were occurring, the meeting continued and business proceeded as if everything was fine. Because commissioners and advisory delegates were all on mute and we were unable to unmute ourselves, and there was no way to send a message to the Moderators (the "question" or "process" option of PC Biz could sometimes be utilized for this function but not if the problem was that PC Biz wasn't allowing people to submit questions/motions as sometimes occurred), we couldn't call out "Wait! There's a problem! PC Biz isn't working and people aren't able to ! Please slow down/stop the parliamentary process until this is resolved." Instead, business continued and so commissioners' questions went unanswered, motions were not able to get made, and potentially crucial voices were not heard during important conversations. Also, although lip service was paid to those living in faraway time zones, the actions of the body and the suggestions/motions of the

I loved my time at GA, but I am in the weird age bracket where I am not really eligible to be a ruling elder at my small church, but I will about to age out of being a YAAD before the next GA. While there are opportunities to serve in other capacities besides being a commissioner at future GAs, as an active and passionate member of the

I realize the 11am eastern start time is to be more helpful for the west coasters at 8am, but I think 7am can be just fine. It worked on a few of the days. Make it the way it's done from the start. That should allow more time for debating or listening to opposing points of view. I wanted to hear those but didn't due to time constraints. Perhaps encourage more reports to just be in the consent agenda. All the work of all the committees is very

Better SWAG. SWAG builds teams and sends a message of appreciation. Stipends. See previous question There should have been an in-person help desk and concierge in the hotel.

Social issues need to be lamented but individuals should feel comfortable with their "call" to action. Each person needs to pray and listen to God's call. Church does not need to preach political views. God is so much bigger.

More "meet-up" spaces either online or in person during the off time.

Continue to grow presentation of creative and effective ministries. Featuring stories of congregations during worship was very effective. Could also do this during committee worship or interspersed with committee work

Make the entire GA in-person.

This GA took too long. Too many days. Needs to be consolidated somehow

Actually, more time in meetings and less in zoom plenaries. And more familiarization of what we are doing and the overall process of GA; how to decompress when its all over.

Nothing

Overall a great experience

YAADs really get a raw deal in plenary. They advise on positionsâ€”usually on topics that will affect themâ€”and get praised for it, but then don't get a vote. That should change. It's been suggested that young people could be ordained and sent as RECs, but the reality of small presbyteries is that this is unlikely. Let's honour our young people who are showing up for this by giving them a real stake in what happens in plenary. Moderation this year was fantastic, and I'm grateful to our moderators and parliamentarians. I'm sure it's a juggle every year, but the

Capacitaci3n por etapas definidas Reclutar personas que tienen la experiencia de los procesos, muchas veces quienes ofrecen el adiestramiento no poseen experiencia de trabajo real, opino que las personas que adiestran deben estar m3s capacitados en la vida pr3ctica del proceso. No pueden responder muchas veces a las dudas

I preferred the in-person experiences of GA. I was sad that the opening worship was online, and we commissioners did not have the experience of hundreds of commissioners gathering and singing together with a mass choir at opening worship and sharing communion in person. I realize that this is because of COVID but I am hopeful that future Assemblies will be in person when we are past the COVID scare. I believe that the kind of

I most wanted to return from Louisville with a fresh energy and a new language that would help me speak with unfriendly or indifferent. I realize that was a great deal to expect, but still I did feel that I didn't contribute much beyond my votes and a less scripted agenda--and more attention to the talents in the room--might have yielded a better result. You can't expect a good result when you take motivated people, with varied backgrounds and deep experience of life, and then simply talk at them eight hours a day. It's not only asking too much, it's a Committees should face each other. The Equity Prime is a forced way for GA to control who speaks and the It is a very time intensive process, especially for ruling elders and YAADs. The timing this year (3 weeks!) was hard to understand and limited participation.

I enjoyed the committee work -- mainly because I got to know folks not of my tradition. However, it seems that the plenary is overly complicated and many amendments/substitute motions could be handled in some form of I like using Louisville for the Assembly and although its good to move around the country, I think with the investment of changing the floorplans to include conference rooms, that there could be more usage of the newly

1. There were technical difficulties in the moderation of plenary business. It was hard to tell if a request for speaking had been registered. The slowed process of doing business, particularly fair voting, meant fewer voices were heard on issues. Motions in the que got dropped and in my case was lost during a break and was not possible to get presented. That was alienating! Sometimes it was hard to find the actual wording of what was being voted on.
2. Inclusion organizationally was superb and a model for the world! Unfortunately, it was still a very restricted group due to the nature of our business. All the members of diverse groups were very good also at doing organizational work of formulating and passing resolutions. Little of all that processing is relatable to most congregational life and is completely beyond the realm of most worshiping groups. The changes in the Book of Order stood out to me about how organized churches have to be, while finding people to do those organizational tasks are harder and burdensome. Our congregations will continue to decline, and our bright future lies in worshiping groups not so burdened. Perhaps future GA's could find a meeting place where minimal

Earlier committee assignment notification More networking events prior to GA

I voted for, but was not in the majority, in person committees and general assembly meetings.

It appeared at times that the PC-biz technology made online moderating difficult with the missed motions and If there is a better way to vet commissioners as well as those who moderator, I believe the whole church would benefit. I do not know how OGA would do that, but I would hope that our presbyteries would send commissioners who have the emotional intelligence, physical stamina, relatively sound health, diplomacy, and theological maturity to commit to this work. I suspect that it is hard to find those who are willing to serve in this Consider the impact of PERSONAL INTERACTIONS and how desperately they are needed for the church to move together. If each commissioner is put in a virtual 'box' for the whole assembly, there are no interactions, few chances for the Holy Spirit to operate, and the whole thing feels very dead, computerized and artificial, like an keeping the Plenaries on schedule

While I think this takes an inordinate amount of time for commissioners, I understand that under our current form of governance, there may not be a better way to allow people and issues to be heard. This was overall, a positive experience for me and gave me a better sense of who we are and who we strive to be as Presbyterians.

It was hard with PC Biz having people's motions and wanting to be recognized disappearing. If there was a way people could use a feature on zoom to let the moderators know that they had submitted a motion/amendment I think it would make things run a lot smoother and make people feel more heard

General Assembly should not be about fly-specking language in secondary and tertiary amendments. Doing amendments in the moment is terrible because it does not give time for full consideration of the issues. Votes in Plenaries should be up or down, and more time should be given to discussion of the underlying issues.

Hopefully with plenaries in person, the time will not have to be so extended. Because committees were one week with a couple days break, then plenaries, the congregation felt like we pastors were "in town" and it was hard to get substitute preachers two Sundays in a row because we were "in town." I heard several pastors lamenting the fact that they had to work their regular job on time of the GA service. I got a substitute for the committee work, but prepared a sermon for after plenaries. If it had been the usual stretch of days away, 5 full days of zoom was extremely challenging. Sitting in the one place, focusing and maintaining levels of concentration while feeling remote from the experience was difficult. There was none of the energy of the room that is normal in this type of experience. I have both studied and had meetings online since before the pandemic but never for such extended periods of time. I have heard from delegates to previous GAs about the sense of fellowship they experienced. While we did achieve some of this in Committee, socializing was at a minimum and

No online

The meeting seemed somewhat ill prepared. Please don't play Covid. Covid is a factor but not a real excuse. Some of the behind-the-scenes politics came out in plenary sessions. Awkward! Should have been dealt with prior to GA. A commission with what seemed a lot of power was created to address these internal and other issues. But who does commission report to over the next two years? To whom does it held accountable for over the next two years? What are the limitations in changes that they can implement prior to the next GA meeting?

The one part that I found confusing/clunky/awkward was being in-person at committee meetings and still having to use earbuds/headphones, that was just distracting since those speaking could still be heard and there was a about a one second delay in my earbuds. I only used them if needed for translation. This was especially frustrating since we had these huge monitors in front of the room that I thought could have been utilized to stream the Zoom and then those needing translation could have used earbuds/headphones. However, I was in the second-floor conference room which meant we were chock-a-block next to other committees merely

At the committee level, allow for some input on overtures prior to the committee meeting to consider consolidation and to determine where discussion and disagreement would take place.

Perhaps more committee bonding experiences so there is a level of trust before arriving.

I think that if the time commitment can be streamlined, it will be easier to get more people to be commissioners. In my presbytery, we had one ruling elder commissioner position and one YAAD position go unfilled because people were having trouble setting aside the required amount of time.

La comuniÃ³n de unos y otros es importante programar mas actividades que faciliten mayor comuniÃ³n

It seemed that there were technological issues which prevented some people from being able to offer up amendments or speak to motions, etc. While I recognize that just being on the queue does not mean one will be called on, I also feel like there were some instances where speakers were not visible to the comoderators for

Technology is a gift for which I give thanks, but there were points when the failure of the technology changed the discussion if not the actual motions passed. At times, the moderators' screen seemed to not inform them of people desiring to speak or even to move. I felt that conversations were rushed and adequate deliberation was occasionally missing. It seemed as if there was more work than could be done in the allowed time. Perhaps the Stated Clerk could take a more active role. The deputy stated clerk seemed overworked. Because of time

My biggest frustration was that the plenary discussion process seemed rushed at times, with the moderators seeing different info about questions in the queue than I was seeing. The technology seemed to lag at times. Questions necessary to understand the process seemed to be overlooked at times.

As stated before team building exercise(s) for committee members would be helpful. One of the commissioners when she got up to speak said it was the first time ever she had done so at any event. Perhaps it would have been easier for it she had the chance to get to know their peers more. Might help to have access to the book of order and confessions in word format so that one could cut and paste into corrections or replacement

I understand committees want to highlight their work, but I found it frustrating the amount of time that was sometimes spent speaking about and presenting on items that had already been approved in the consent agenda. I would prefer maximizing time for debate and discussion on items still needing consideration.

The cost of assemblies is very tough to balance with our need for community - it might be worth looking into camp or campus space to host General Assemblies, at least to cut down on food per diem costs.

I knew no one when I travelled to Louisville for my committee work. There were no social gatherings (other than lunch) so I did not really get to know anyone else. I felt isolated. I understand that this GA needed to be done this way due to Covid, but hopefully never again. The plenaries on zoom seemed impersonal. Too many of the same people speaking again and again. I like the co-moderators, but they needed to be firmer - as did the parliamentarian. Personal agendas sometimes took precedence over policies for the greater good of PCUSA. I was amazed at how many times recommendations of the ACC were ignored, especially when amendments were being crafted. The ACC reps need to do a better job of emphasizing the pitfalls of shoddy language. I am a
Just making sure that first-time attendees are fully prepared and know what to expect.

I was a little surprised by how late sessions went in the actual General Assembly. It was a little hard to concentrate on business for 12 hours at a time.

I think the teams involved did outstanding work Planning, technology, and helpers/help desk.

Having attended large national education conferences, I realize that the coming together was very important in the committee work, but able to access my own computer rather than being in a large convention center looking at large screens was a surprise that I preferred the zoom for that reason. Having never previously attend a GA, I feel that it would be harder for me to focus on the actions being considered seated further away from whatever

The GA meetings were too long. Is it possible to have the committee meetings meet the first half of the week and the GA meeting the second half of the week? Therefore, the commissioners who are employed will only Expand BIPOC sessions to include time before GA meets. Revamp/redesign the PC BIZ screen so that there are column/displays which indicate the status of the item being addressed.

Well done executing a well organized GA. Your careful planning was evident to all. Thanks.

Not having any other format to compare with, I did enjoy the in-person committee meetings and the online plenaries. It worked well and we got a lot done.

I think I said it all in the last one - time commitment, and respecting those (YAADs, EADs, MADs, and RECs in particular) who really need this commitment to fit into something closer to the 1 week/8-day model, not a month-long model I think there are ways to do this, and I trust that this will be built into GA226.

Committees should more actively use online voting methods to be prepared for plenaries. I would invest in an upgrade in PCbiz to allow for a more user friendly interface when it went beyond a simple motion ammendment.

Memo to GA review Committee: We had many protests from commissioners who were not being recognized to speak or even to enter amendments to motions. In my opinion this was a system error in the process for evaluation and section of PC BIZ about who or what was placed in a queue. In the past when we were in person a minimum of 3 lines would form. Lines for In-favor, opposed and have a question. 3 lines of commissioners or 1 for each issue minimum were set up in the meeting space. At each line were staff who would ask nature of your reason or position and verify if it was different from anyone else's issue. Balance was maintained and all were allowed to speak who had a different issue to ask or point to present. Everyone then, in equal numbers, was given a chance if the criteria of difference was met. Debate never was ended until a motion to call the question was agreed upon. This did not happen regularly at this assembly. I assume this background work was not being done at this meeting otherwise most of our protests would have been eliminated. This might be a glitch in our PC Biz support function., I do not know, however, a way to fix this in the future would be helpful. Since we will Continue getting better with inclusivity as PCBiz is being used. I think technology and the work of the co moderators was a challenge for the plenary sessions. More transparency about content of questions being asked I'm going away thinking more about the intersection of parliamentary procedure and the art of discernment.

Discernment was mentioned quite a bit during plenaries - and I don't think I ever coupled discernment with the way we actually process our work. It might be helpful to center plenaries in the language of discernment - even

I believe that there should be some discussion on how to make advisory delegates feel like they have more of a voice rather than just hitting a yes or no button online. I could not really tell if people were taking my thoughts seriously or if they were just committed to their own thoughts. I also wish that there was more time worship time during the committee meetings such as all committee groups in the chapel for morning worship. In the Having information earlier would help: knowing committee assignment, earlier training, team building with the committee, having earlier access to the overtures.

Definitely do not hold plenaries over Zoom unless ABSOLUTELY necessary. I'd prefer not to have committees meet over Zoom either. There is more of a sense of relationship and camaraderie amongst commissioners when sitting together in the same room. Have communication between the individuals monitoring PCBiz and the Co-moderators. That it took until Friday to realize that someone needed to be assigned the task of keeping the co-moderators updated on incoming motions that were taking a while to type into the system so that they didn't Due to differences tied to Covid, I'm not sure.

Just the social/networking/fellowship aspects which will be better as the pandemic (hopefully) fades. I attended the St. Louis GA and was on the COLA for the Baltimore GA and know of the many formal and informal activities that accompany GA "as we used to do it". Otherwise, I think this was a carefully planned and orchestrated meeting with a focus on our health and safety - especially because you had to make decisions in 2020 without

Recommendation for PC-Biz (repeated from last question): In person at GA, commissioners who wish to speak line up and can be seen by the whole assembly. If we let commissioners and delegates see the names of people seeking recognition and filing motions in PC-Biz, this reduces insecurity about the technology by providing confirmation of commissioners/delegates' requests. It also lets the entire assembly see who's lined up to speak,

More information and time to prepare for the consent agenda and the overtures for the final votes at the G/A's last week. The training prior to going to Louisville for PC-Biz and moving around MYGA was a HUGE help. You could do a little more of that. There could be more hands on training for using the Parliamentary Tools, Better hotel accommodations. Galt House was a disappointment.

Consider providing hotel accommodations where every room will be equipped with a mini-fridge and Some of the work our committee worked on Moving Forward was being duplicated by another committee FIN . We were concerned as to what affect they would have on one another. Since we went last and items were on the consent agenda I wasn't sure how they all melded together. But I saw how well staff and commissioners were working together and have faith that the new committees, teams and tables with the Spirits guiding will Being a total newbie, I didn't know what to expect. I agreed to serve last fall mainly because my instincts (Holy Spirit?) told me I should. Overall, it was a fantastic experience! I am grateful to share some concrete

Have the moderators bring up prime equity tools more often

Please consider: More extensive online training My Presbytery and Synod provided some training, but from speaking with others, I got the impression that all did not. Information could be on the website sooner so that we could have more time to read and digest all the business that will come before the committees and the GA. Fewer zoom meetings. Commissioners who have previous experience could explain to newcomers the workings Oh, I forgot to mention that the bus that went back and forth from the hotel to the PC(USA) Center was very nice. It was mentioned as something for "those who need it". But it was really nice. On the first day of Committee Group 4, several of us bound ourselves together to walk to the center...there was no one helping guide us, and we were sort of unsure of the best route, even using Google Maps to guide us. I walked by myself going back to the hotel (didn't know about the bus) and felt a bit unsafe, with homeless people talking to themselves along the streets. The next morning I wasn't looking forward to the walk, but ran into the bus at the right time, so after Days spent on the computer need to be shorter, 12 hours is just too long.

Have a gathering for those wanting to be Moderators or Co-Moderators of the next GA so I can have a better opportunity to get to know them and discover whether or not they will be good in this position.

The plenary work was stressful because I have very slow Internet work. I was never sure that my screen was changing when others' were changing, and I missed several votes because my screen didn't refresh with the voting box unless I force-refreshed it. Old computer; slow slow Internet. Hopefully we will not have to do online work in the future, as I feel that the energy you feel when all are gathered together in one place was lacking in

For decades, Presbyterians have weeded out entrepreneurs. Evangelism has been treated as a dirty word. Our presbytery has done some very innovative plants including a congregation within a Prison. We need so much more. We also should consider a significant partnership with the other Progressive Protestant churches to combat the message of christian nationalism and fascism that is gaining a stronghold in our country. We have a beautiful, powerful voice given by God to use against tyranny. I pray we can retool how we do things to address I know the plan for the next GA is to flip this GA's format. I have to say that I think the committee work is better done in person because of the debatability (sp?) options - zoom breakout rooms would work, but the ability to

1. Dedicar mayor tiempo de Adiestramiento en el uso de plataforma tecnológica, a los/as miembros Adulto Mayor. 2. El uso del tiempo e intervenciones sobre un mismo punto (debates), hace extensas las reuniones. 3. Still need to work out the technology issues on online assemblies The learning curve for the moderators is great, OGA did the best that they could with this hybrid model. GA226 will involve a different hybrid model that will bring its own needs and challenges. I do not think that aspects to 'improve or consider' for future General Assemblies are appropriate for discussion as we move forward with the burden of the pandemic. Thank you!

I noticed that resolution advocates were invited to speak (both in committee and in plenary), but experts with opposing viewpoints were not brought in. Especially with limited debate times, I think this gave a one-sided point of view and meant less robust consideration and discernment on a few of the controversial items. I think people have the opportunity to seek to give input and could seek out time to speak at the committee level, but unless someone knew that and knew the way to do so they are less likely to take that step. I wonder if

INTRODUCTORY VIDEOS & TESTIMONIALS DURING PLENARIES: our Advocacy groups and committees should please consider the importance of time in the amount of videos and presentations they make before we even get into plenary discussion and vote. this is not an assessment of their importance but rather the expediency of their presentation. My polity committee took a fraction of the introductory time that the Assembly Committee on Race and Gender Justice and the Environmental Justice committee took during plenaries. Let me be clear: every single one of those videos and testimonials were powerful and should be watched by all the commissioners. I do question that so many of them needed to be presented during plenary time as opposed to somewhere else in our GA materials. SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS FROM THE GA plenary FLOOR This a hard one because it is part of the process. Nevertheless, people really abused the parliamentary tool bar to submit amendments to committee recommendations. This seemed to me to be micromanaging the committee's work. They took up a large amount of time with voting on them, discussing them, and in some cases more amendments to the amendments. One of them, encouraging members to join the NRA, was frankly laughable.

I am deeply concerned about having the right amount of time in-person. What I did not expect was how demoralizing it would be to be around so few people, and with such time restraints. It may be that we simply can no longer have an entire assembly in person. But we are losing so much. I think some things could change - if we had more time for lunch so we could really sit and get to know our fellow committee members that would be great. I was very surprised that the committee table set-up meant we weren't looking at each other. All facing forward robbed us of human contact with our fellow commissioners. Because of the way the tables were set up, it was exceedingly difficult to get in comfortable small group arrangements. I was struck by the fact that we couldn't worship in the chapel. That was a big loss to me personally, though it might not have been a frustration for others. I don't have any fixes to suggest to address my concern that we are losing very important aspects of our fellowship as a denomination by not being able to spend more time in person. It was meaningful work, no doubt. But there was very little heart in it. What were the guidelines for selecting and training committee leadership? My committee's leadership was quite below par. (More than a few committee members and folks watching on line called it a "train wreck.") It seemed as though no one really knew what they were doing. That was pretty rough. It was a kind leadership team, and non-anxious. But there were lots of polity mistakes that

Overall, this was a wonderful experience and a lot of responsibility. I learned loads about how PCUSA works and I would not trade that for anything. The plenary sessions were just rushed - especially as we got towards the end of the session. Perhaps adding one more day would have helped. I really enjoyed hearing from the YADS and

1. Less waste, when it comes to meals, such as plastics, paper, boxes, etc.
2. Don't use committee time for promotional and informational videos. It's a waste of valuable time!

Keep the GA News coming. I felt cared for by the staff and everyone around me during the committee work. Our leader, Anne Wilson was fantastic! Her skills are top notch.

More time to fellowship and networking.

I was told in the beginning through the training provided that I needed a second screen or second device to be effective in committee and plenary. That was not true when using a computer. One simply needed proper training to use a split screen. This caused me to purchase an unneeded second screen.

I believe allowing the commissioners the decision about future assemblies was necessary. Grateful for that. This is a season of experimentation - I am glad we will attempt committee work in committees with plenaries in person. I think this will generate the kind of synergy we need after the past two-plus years. Having 500 people

More time for informal conversations over breaks and meals. More time to get to know one another, especially at the committee level. More time to engage with people/task forces/commissions/PC-USA staff around the

Even though many attempts were made to be inclusive and respectful, at times I felt that because my (or someone else's) views were not in line with the majority, they were not treated as valid "Presbyterian" views.

I liked having the committees meet in person and the plenaries conducted as they were. This opened the

I think if we are going to do part of GA online and part in/person the committee time most benefits from in

Long hours via Zoom are very difficult.

** The parliamentarian in my committee often looked to the staff person in the back of the room for help. This was concerning. Please recruit parliamentarians who do not need to rely on staff. ** The committee chair was very nice and did their best. I'm grateful for their hard work. I thought it was obvious that at times the committee needed to step outside of Robert's Rules to facilitate discussion. This was not done until a member of the committee asked if this was possible. It would have been helpful if the chair saw themselves as more than just a traffic cop but was there to facilitate discussion and offer suggestions. ** I'm grateful for the humor and wisdom the co-mods brought to their work. I was concerned about the time mismanagement in the plenary. Discussions dragged on unnecessarily on the first few days. On Friday morning, the Assembly was told it would need to rush and debate would be limited because we needed to finish our work on time. However, this decision to reduce time for debate just happened to be on the day when the Assembly was dealing with major issues like abortion, parental leave, apartheid, the merger of PMA and OGA, and the schedule of future GAs (fully online,

The in-person time with my committee and other commissioners was very formative and helpful. I learned how the business of our committee and the assembly would work and put to use the training we had done beforehand. I also appreciated that we were not bombarded with information from outside groups such as additional commitments in person like dinners, social hour, etc. I would suggest consideration be given to how to I'm glad zoom plenaries are gone. Committee work on zoom might be rough.

Retain some form of HYBRID It seems that we experienced a time challenge as we moved into Plenary. I could see the co-moderators working hard to keep us focused, I felt for brothers and sisters in different time zones I see no things to improve upon from my perspective.

The technology was tough sometimes but that is the nature of technology. I think you are likely going to need to offer "Hybrid" meetings from now on.

It was my first time. I don't have any experience to compare it with. The GA met my expectations.

Congrats on a well-done General Assembly in a hybrid model.

Even in hybrid settings, it is important to foster belonging especially when it is less obvious which people are attending hotels/conferences for GA. Have maps/graphics in PC-biz to show where presbyteries are from.

During the voting and parliamentary procedures, there was a delay in the technology so at least one of my submitted motions was not seen. I don't believe this was the fault of the co-moderators, but rather challenges with the technology. But it did result in frustration and, perhaps, a different outcome on some votes.

Small church struggles. Will ponder on your question.

It's hard to say, given that the format will be reversed from what we experienced. Even though there were other committees at the Center at the same time as mine, we took breaks and lunch at different times and finished each day at different times. So I really only got to know the people on my committee. I don't know how that translates into the Omega format, but creating that space for interaction with people across the denomination is

I did not appreciate the COST to send trinkets to each commissioner from the Presbyterian Foundation. They could have been placed at our seats in the committee rooms at much less expense. Also, you might consider a mute button for the co-moderators when they needed to speak to each other. Many of the whispers were

I would appreciate it if we could have had a different focus at times. Rather than tackle "external issues", work on "internal issues" such as church membership, providing support and/or resources for small congregations, new ideas for worship, evangelism, etc. I really don't appreciate it when my church doesn't support "me" (corporate) but is totally concentrated on other things that some other entity is already working on - a little of this is ok, but this GA was all about external-to-the-church issues. We spent way too much time on these issues and not enough of looking internally - we have issues that need to be fixed but I don't think they were addressed

Maybe have on line meetings for synod/Presbytery participants to meet others before the in person GA. Keep on line GA. I could not have committed more time than I did. Having it on line made it possible for me to have a

Because the majority of commissioners are first timers, have a overview of what GA is like, perhaps with some clips from past GAs. More clarity around reimbursements for travel and childcare and money lost due to unpaid leave. Be aware of the limitations of attention span on zoom. Encourage the moderator(s) to not always call upon the same voices; or once it becomes clear one or two people want to speak frequently, name that to the individual offline and encourage the opening up of space of new voices. More clarity about the schedule. The individual overtures and their order would flash on the screen but we were not given much time to prepare or Items of business need to be very clear and unambiguous so everyone can understand them.

Zoom participation

I felt that GA was somewhat removed from theology and more focused on cultural solutions created by society - not really looking at Biblical answers or how to share them with the world. Romans 10:12 says "There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on him; for 'whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.' We should rejoice and be glad in this and spend our time together celebrating our brother/sister (sibling) relationships in Christ. Instead, I felt we dwelt on lamentations and finger pointing too much. Rev. Jenny Saperstein gave the message on July, 9 2022 worship service that I found to be very meaningful as it questioned what is our responsibility to our brothers and sisters. When we are disenfranchised as the older son was in the story of the father welcoming the prodigal son home, The biggest improvement would be to provide a notional schedule of which committees/proposals will be reviewed and voted on in which plenary. In committee using headphones with Zoom was sometimes problematic, especially when you could directly hear the person talking at the mic. The audio delay between live and Zoom audio is definitely noticeable and distracting. PC-Biz worked well in general. I was a little frustrated sometimes when the text of the item being voted on in Committee was not being presented in PC-Biz. I suspect Meet in person. Please don't lecture ALL OF US in the opening worship about how guilty we are for taking lands from the indigenous peoples, how guilty we are for having made slaves of African peoples, how guilty we are of destroying our natural world, how guilty we are of not recognizing and supporting others who's genders may not be simply male or female. PRAISE GOD for the Clerk's opening remarks about how we are ALL ONE IN CHRIST, that this is our primary identity! After being bludgeoned over the head in opening worship - AND YOU WERE BEATING UP ON THE CHOIR, NO LESS - I was ready to throw in the towel...but I hung in there. Next Assembly in worship, MORE JESUS & LESS HOW HORRIBLE WE'VE BEEN where social justice issues, etc. are concerned. Doing GA on-line with the moderators having faulty equipment connections, commissioners trying to speak, sometimes being SUPER RUSHED and other times letting certain committees SPEND UP TO AN HOUR SHARING WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE during plenaries, Yikes! I will say that the moderators were much better on-task the last day, though still not enough discussion was had on certain votes. Clearly, there were enough comments from the lkes of me and others who recognized how spectacularly off-base this way of doing important business is concerned. All was not a bust, though... I LOVED SERVING ON THE POLITY COMMITTEE with quite the diverse group of people - all shapes, sizes, colors, races, genders, theological perspectives. It was a treat to be with these folks IN-PERSON and we thoroughly, thoroughly worked through all of our business with our moderators operating in TOP FORM. The GA HELP STAFF were very helpful, answering GA is a great place to connect the church leaders from different parts of the country and the world. But, I felt that GA lacked ways to help creating this connection. Though technology helped in current situation, Zoom I didn't realize how much time I needed to prepare for this. Once I realized it I spent a number of hours getting ready reading and watching everything that was put on the site.

Perhaps a more general introduction to the roles of each type of commissioner/delegates as well as a summary The Parliamentarian toolbox left a lot of advisories without a way to raise procedure questions. After inquiring with multiple parliamentarians while in plenary, and finding out that advisory delegates had those privilege's/rights, but could not access them was frustrating. There was also often a great deal of advisories who had something they wished to voice while in plenary, but were not often called on until a social media stir was made. If there was a way to have process where at least a few were called on, separate from commissioners,

In person! Also, I found it frustrating that after all the work from the committee's sessions, the Overatures/motions go to the final plenaries and then a few people spend efforts to change or even introduce Picking up again on the theme--make the implicit explicit. SAY what it is that draws the NRA shirt-wearing member together with the Moms Demand Action shirt-wearing member. Hint: it isn't just a shared ethnic heritage; it is faith in Jesus Christ. More than anything else, I think the explicit statements about our faith were quiet or lacking. My assumption is that in most previous assemblies there has been some acknowledgment of that in times of worship and while the worship services were at various points inspiring, helpful, hopeful, etc. . .

My only real complaint would be that you should never put us in a hotel that doesn't have an open restaurant for dinner on Sunday night. I was alone at the GA, and don't feel comfortable exploring by myself in an unfamiliar town, so that was an issue for me. The hotel restaurant should be open every night for dinner. (Oddly, the bars

Make a more concerted effort to build relationships during the in-person part -- even if it is just in our committees. It really felt like we were there in person, but you didn't really want us to do anything in person. I was very disturbed by the lack of discernment allowed by the Moderators of Plenary sessions. I respect them as leaders and people of faith immensely... but they did not allow this to be a positive experience and did not value or model healthy debate to the purpose of discerning the Spirit's lead. In particular when voting on the various motions with regards to the "taskforce" vs "commission" on merging the entities of the PCUSA resource and corresponding members were given the microphone but not commissioners. This echoed the practice throughout. It was clear to me the PCUSA values resource voices far more than it values its commissioners and I did not feel the presence of commissioners to this process was valued by General Assembly leadership in practice - only in rhetoric. I felt technology was a scapegoat to the issues of leadership, particularly moderatorial leadership. The tech in this assembly was INCREDIBLY impressive, and the help desk was amazing. I did not feel our leadership was properly trained and they hid behind the tech as an excuse for allowing far less conversation than could have easily happened. I continue to believe if we are going to elect moderators for two years of vision and leadership of an adaptive nature... but then expect them right out of the gate to lead a technical process that is confusing and has little ground for practice than we are putting them in position to fail. It would be great if moderators were elected at the END of an assembly to lead in vision from the choices of that assembly and then to moderate the NEXT general assembly when they have plenty of lead time to be trained and practiced at HOW to do the logistical part of this very technical task. I know this won't happen - but I

Personally, I found it very frustrating that only overture advocates and OGA/GA staff and resources persons were permitted to address the International Engagement Committee. For all of the emphasis about hearing other voices or permitting all of the voices to speak, I found it interesting that only those who were advocating for an overture were given presence and voice before the committee. In the future, I think it would be helpful and

On housing - I was surprised that the Galt House did not have refrigerators and microwaves in the room. That was a problem. Otherwise, I have nothing in addition to what I already mentioned.

Though I would prefer for GA to be completely in person, I think the idea to switch to online committee work and in-person plenary is a good compromise. I found during my committee work that there was real value in the offline and spontaneous conversations that happened. I missed that aspect during the online plenaries. I hope I thought GA 225 was very well done. It was organized SO WELL. I liked being in Louisville at the Presbyterian Center and staying in a nearby hotel (The Galt House was excellent). It would be nice to have some optional organized dinners or outings or gatherings in the evenings for community building, especially for those who

Everything went well for me. The only issue was air travel. I was late getting to Louisville and caught a few hours of sleep before my committee met. That is not the GA's fault. GA cannot control the weather.

I do thank all for their passion to the GA preparation .

The in person committee meetings worked very well under the current circumstances. While the plan for the next GA is to have the committee meetings online, I think a lot will be lost.

thought it went well

Consider ways to improve amendment process for bills/overtures/proposals; current process is time consuming, and often the amendments made come down to "wordsmithing."

Early preparation of commissioners and explanation of requirements

Me parece que han hecho un gran esfuerzo. No aÑ±adirÑ±a mÑ±s por ahora.

Mor opportunities to meet in small groups

Make them In person with Zoom and PCBIZ options for those observing who cannot attend (or for those with health concerns.) Create space for connection and collegiality. Definitely have more people assisting the co-moderators in the plenaries (who did an amazing job in spite of some significant oversights) because they need extra eyes and ears. Even a big sign that says "take a breath" so that when something is going on that needs

For future General Assemblies, how could a better sense of community be created for commissioners and

Having more in person options.

By having in person events, dinners, breakfasts, boat rides, events where they can just be themselves and enjoy. While the interpersonal contact is important, the cost of in person mtgs is an expense that could be greatly reduced and the monies used elsewhere. Utilizing technology such as ZOOM is much more practical. Hybrid If you put any aspect of this conference on zoom, pastors will be expected to care for their church, and their families while also serving at OGA. The divided attention for such important matters is impossible.

A couple of meals- or a place they are invited to gather if they wish. Again I was so isolated outside the committee time it hurt me deeply-which is why I would not recommend any ruling elders in the congregation to attend-it might turn them off to the national church. Also- if the meeting is ever held in Louisville again- another Fully in person for committees and plenaries.

I believe a sense of community was developed in committees.

Maybe offering chances for people to build community over social media.

I feel like giving the hybrid nature of GA the sense of community was as good as they could make it. I felt more It was challenging to be task-oriented during a committee meeting when SCOTUS overruling of Roe vs Wade was announced. The moderators were conditioned to wear parliamentary hats, I guess. It would have been helpful to pause and share what it means to address reproductive justice in such a moment. Unless some shifting of I really don't know. I didn't form any relationships within my committee but we didn't have any sub groups and because my family was in town with me I wasn't interested in going out after our meetings.

A simple meet-n-greet should build community. I was struck by contradictory statements from co-mods. One day we were told, "We want to see your smiling faces on Zoom and nothing else," suggesting we should turn video off if we were, say, eating a bagel. I kept my video off all the time so I wouldn't distract. The next day we were told, "Please turn your video on so that we know it's really you. We want to see your face and build a sense

Being together in-person will help. Forced bonding time is not enjoyable for introverts, so providing times and spaces for fellowship without making them required would be most beneficial to all.

Provide BIPOC spaces on Zoom in advance of the GA, to create community among BIPOC attendees, perhaps by asking BIPOC 225 GA attendees to record videos about how attending the BIPOC spaces will help to enrich their GA experience and sending the videos to future BIPOC attendees. Since privacy concerns prevented OGA from sharing the email addresses of commissioners/advisory delegates, perhaps, strongly suggest that people join the Spirit of GA or a similar Facebook group so they can communicate via social media. I realize that not everyone

The next Assembly will reverse the experiences of committee work and the plenary. I'm not sure that this reversal will be better for accomplishing a sense of community. Because we worked closely in committees, we more easily transferred that sense of community to the virtual plenary because we already recognized some of I understand at least one Synod gathered it's commissioners and delegates together to experience the plenaries. While not the same as a meeting of the whole, it seems a good way to make connections and community. For those parts in person, intentional gathering time together (out of doors if covid remains a concern) of the whole would also help. A picnic.... a worship... During my week (3rd committees) a large Catholic conference was

That's a challenging question. The BIPOC meetings really helped. I'm a member of REAC so I already had a strong support group. Perhaps what created the greatest sense of community for me was seeing resolutions on race and gender receiving tremendous support. This moved me deeply and made me proud to be in PC(USA). I also loved the exquisite parliamentary procedure used in committee to move the business in an efficient and

I think that if we are not in-person community is going to be a reach During the time together it might have been nice to have had opportunities to gather in the evening (during the committee meetings). Since next year will be Find some way for commissioners to engage with one another in small groups throughout plenary to reflect on what is going on - perhaps theological implications or how it will affect their locale. It doesn't have to be much, but something to break up the monotony of the stream of business to engage the participants. Some way to integrate YAADs with commissioners so there's not a feeling of marginalization among the YAADs and annoyance

I loved our committee and everyone was very respectful. People took their commitment and their job seriously which was wonderful to see. The co-moderators did a great job in cultivating community even when we were thousands of miles from each other. I loved seeing all the different Presbyteries represented. It was a great

In person

The omega option will help facilitate community with plenaries in person

Being in person and allowing people to mingle. During committees we were kept apart from other committees and even in sessions we were on individual computers with headphones interacting through zoom. Not much I would like to have seen a survey beforehand about my committee peers: "I am skilled in ...; I am interested in ...; I am concerned about" I'd also like to see some meet-up opportunities for interest groups. I know the

I was on the GA Mission Committee that put forward the Omega option. I argued for the fully in-person option, which was defeated. I will recommend GA to others in the future provided they can function well in an online environment. I don't know what more can be done to the online experience to make it better and to give it a

Hold in person General Assemblies.

> Exercise better enforcement of Equity Primes in Plenary. They worked well in Committee, but once we got to Plenary they appeared to become ONLY a "talking point". > Study ways to go back to MOSTLY in-person, complete with a Resource Room, Exhibit Hall, etc... > Live FULLY into our commitment to honor diversity in all its 1) More intentional time to get to know each other (both online and in person). 2) When online, making it easier to contact specific commissioners through a chat feature or message board. I understand not wanting to have it open during deliberations themselves, but it would make it easier to contact people to exchange ideas, offer support, address painful moments, etc before/after the event itself. 3) While I understand why it was online this year and believe everyone did the best they could, I think having plenaries online makes building community more difficult. The large number of people trying to seek recognition coupled with tech issues and our ability to see recognition queues that did not match what the moderators were necessarily seeing made it tempting to

In person time with those on your committee

More organized mealtimes together. Communion daily. Specific team building activities (and not trite 'getting to know you' stuff, but some real team building. Since committees will be meeting online prior to the plenary in-person meeting, perhaps they could meet together initially upon arriving at the plenary to finish their team

More ice breakers.

I felt a sense of community

The overall experience was wonderful. While moderators have unique skills and our two were amazing, equipping them to push back on those inclined to take advantage of the larger assembly would improve the

I don't know. Covid made me hesitant to connect in person although I did enjoy meals with a few fellow

committee members. I guess I'm enough of an introvert that the sense of community isn't why I attended. But I

Having more time to eat lunch would help because we would not have to stuff our food down and run back to committee and could instead talk and get to know our fellow community.

In person

Just keep it up. I appreciated the preparation of this General Assembly.

I don't think there could be. Maybe it was just my outgoing personality, but the networking was an exciting part

Have some dedicated social time. The breakfasts and lunches, the resources room, and other events in St. Louis made much better community. It would also be nice to be able to talk to fellow commissioners during plenary--

Since this pandemic, we've learned that building committee is so important and I think being together for

worship and meals consistently will definitely help with this sense of community. It could be an option to have a

few more "training sessions" that are focused more on community development than "here's how you use

It feels easy to build community in committee work because the work joins us.

So many ways--please see above.

Meet in person, allow time and opportunities for people to gather and discuss the ideas and issues that are on

I think the group chats were very helpful! I would've liked a group chat for our committee members, as I enjoyed speaking and working with many of them when were together. The other group chats we made were super fun and engaging, and I hope that stays even for in person events. I think fun games during the online portions would've been good too. Scavenger hunts, bingo cards and more were made by commissioners and I think that would've been creative and entertaining at a bigger level. In terms of being a YAAD, for online/hybrid GAs I would suggest less meetings. Yes YAADs do have more energy, but as someone on the older side I was frequently I hope that face masks will be optional at future General Assemblies.

Unsure

Have social gathering opportunities.

-I like the small group meetings online. I don't need to be in-person to have community. I think younger

Being in person

Sense of community was created during committee. Our group bonded and is still in contact with one another

In-person. If we're doing Zoom, we need to have more than one pre-committee get together. This is only works

See previous comments

start networking within committee weeks before ga started

Have them meet together, before, during, and after the Assembly.

I felt strong community with my fellow MADs! I walk away from this experience with renewed confidence and trust in my fellow MCWs who were part of this experience with me. I feel like I made and strengthened friendship with them. I cannot say the same about my committee. I honestly feel that if the actual Moderator of the Environmental Justice committee had led more than he did that I might have walked away from that

Pre-meetings were great. I wonder if there is any way to utilize some of The more helpful features of zoom - chat

I think the plan we adopted for 226th GA will do that by bringing all commissioners and advisory delegates

Provide chat and chew opportunities.

How much personal information to share ahead of time is tricky. Our committee did not have everyone's contact info ahead of time to begin conversations, etc. I loved the idea of the intro videos, but only a very small percentage of folks were able to make that happen. Gatherings just to build community virtually will be

Please make potential "field trips", mixers, and such during off hours to enjoy one another's company while

seeing the sights. (Self-pay of course for those who choose to join in.) for example: I noticed the riverboats in Louisville on the Ohio and would have loved to take a evening cruise--but didn't want to go alone. That would

Encourage early meetings and community building activities before actual in-person meetings.

I think the individual committees should meet prior to working on the covertures. The Ecumenical and Interfaith committee met twice on zoom to meet each other. In addition those who were able met for dinner on Sunday night. I believe this created a sense of community on the committee and created a willingness to listen to other points of view. Also the moderator moved our name tags so we could interact with other committee members.

Community was hard to achieve as a whole this year, because community health safety dictated that we couldn't easily interact this year. I am thankful for the efforts taken to work towards our safety! I felt that our committee came together, and that our moderators did a good job facilitated that both so that we could work through out

Since I have never attended GA before, I don't know what it is like to have everyone in attendance for planery. I will be anxious to view how this goes in 2024. My congratulations to the Co-Moderators, Parliamentarian, Stated Clerk, interrupters, and everyone behind the scenes. I was in awe of the work the technical team was

I have no suggestions to share regarding this at this time.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the GA for me was meeting others in person, having thoughtful conversations over lunches and dinners, and building important relationships for the complicated discussions during the committee work as well as into the plenaries. I wish I could have had conversations with any number of the agencies -- to see how my home church and their work could and do intersect. I appreciate the care and concern

I finished GA feeling wounded, devalued, and unimportant. I think GA is an elitist organization that discounts those of us serving where the rubber meets the road.

It is hard to say. Will we have COVID restrictions or not? We could use more frequent breaks. More time to get The actions we needed to take to protect each other from COVID made relationship building difficult. I hope this Meals together and vendors hall.

I think the key to a better sense of community is to have commissioners and advisory delegates together in some of us like me are the first-time commissioners need to be evaluated and assigned to a committee that he can be more effective. although I understand the best experiment, I can anticipate from a hybrid meeting. The Lord work mysteriously. God blesses all of those thy work so hard to make this GA a Faithfull accomplishment. The RGJ meeting had several Zoom meetings before we met in person in Louisville. This was helpful for building community before we met. I am an old peddler, (sales person and relationship builder), so in-person gatherings I value the most important for building community. Zoom and digital help, but I value face to face for the most In-person, it should be a whole lot easier. It was pretty isolating to make votes like we were making on Zoom, I felt my heart break as well as swell with gratitude, hard not to share that. Maybe create spaces for people to gather around concerns...future of church, climate change, racial justice, meaningful worship.

Here is something valuable that I experienced. At first, I felt that as a cisgender person of no-color (lol), my input was seen as less valuable and that I was less valued. I felt that the bipoc room was discriminatory. Then it dawned on me that, this was an important thing for me to feel and experience in order to understand and value what my bipoc and lgbtqia+siblings have no choice but to experience all the time. I believe the equity primes This was missing. Each committee worked in isolation. And the work load is so varied from committee to committee that done had all kinds of time for fellowship. Others had none.

Meet and greets for large groups. Saying that I understand why it didn't happen this year. I made the most meaningful connections during our impromptu breakfast get togethers.

Perhaps a data base profiling the commissioners

Committees meeting before official start date

Plenaries in person, Small group gatherings by synod or region that would help connect with those they may be In a future world free of deadly viruses going around I would like to see more time to socialize and get to know A dedicated social media service of some sort might be nice. Using twitter felt like standing in the room talking to people around me. It did influence me more Than listening to the people who kept offering there opinions via More planned activities to build relationships once at GA.

Expand spaces for BIPOC participants and YAADs!

I realize that Covid is an issue, but it's hard to feel like part of a community when you are just starring at a computer screen. I feel like it would have been beneficial to have had some time before starting work on Committee business, to have had some time to visit and get to know fellow Committee members. We didn't

This will only happen as we return to in-person meetings (committees and plenaries)

In person is so important for this. Online recreation is not the same.

Don't try to build community on zoom. It doesn't work. I can't prioritize an awkward zoom meet and greet over my kids end of year concerts or last game of that season--that already happens enough with presbytery. More time for dialogue in and amongst the delegates--both in committee and in plenaries. It helped to have our

Encourage quiet people to speak up and share their thoughts. Some people monopolized the conversations and As I said, having meals together. Perhaps a gathering place in the evenings for people to meet and just spend

time together. I spent time in my room just watching TV. If there had been a gathering space at the hotel or at the Presbyterian Center, I could have gone there to relax, talk to other commissioners or even use the wifi to

The Zoom feature should allow delegates to be grouped together on the screen so that it is easy to view the people for each group. As it is, you have to scroll through the screen pages to find delegates.

In addition to the whole process of organizing the GA, we could use our time together at PCUSA headquarters to hold a short forum to discuss some interesting topics. It would not be exhausting the proposed subject, but igniting a possible future discussion around it. And at the same time, we would be creating important

See previous answer

Have it in person.

Well, truthfully, the only way to do that would be to go back to in person assemblies. This online stuff sucks, There should be a way to chat with other individuals either through Zoom or PCBiz, but *without* chatting with everyone. We don't need the "Hi from Missouri" type of comments sent out to all, but there were several times I wished I could have sent a quick "hi" or "thanks" to people I know, some I was surprised to see as commissioners or delegates. It also would have been helpful to be able to communicate with committee members when our report was being presented to plenary. There were a couple of important pieces of More intentional opportunities for small groups of commissioners to get to know each other Commissioner challenges that require 5-7 participants Use Zoom breakout groups Have way to communicate directly with other commissioners -- like a DM feature in many online platforms. Have searchable directory of commissioners With the online format, it is nearly impossible - but maybe listing commissioners in an alphabetical way would In person experience is best for a sense of community. What made this experience special was running into someone who had gone through Moderator Training with me, so I had a buddy for meals. In the past, I have also enjoyed having a roommate and getting to know them over the time we were together. I realize that with Obviously the best case is to all be together for the week of committee and plenary. But that relies on commissioners and advisory delegates having done their work, reading, preparation in advance, including the Rationale & Comments which often were meticulously prepared, holding excellent facts & justifications on many sides. Willing Presbytery or Synod members experienced with GA need to gather the commissioners/advisors several times in advance of the GA to walk thru the flow, answers any and all questions, help them visualize what will occur. And altho 2 Committee Zoom meetings were held, the effectiveness of them in my experience with Spending time together with the issues without having Parliamentary Procedure dictate those interactions. I think the denomination could utilize some sort of platform similar to a private facebook group where everyone is free to participate as they would like. A place for commissioners to ask questions, get to know each other, as well as a place advisory delegates could easily share information, especially updated information with I have no immediate suggestions at this time.

That is a good question, however I have no thoughts right now. That said, I am confident that our servant leaders who professionally plan and operate these events will find a way forward to shine and make us look With the meeting being held in person in two years, I feel that a greater sense of community will be achieved. I believe everything possible was done to provide a sense of community for commissioners and advisory delegates in light of the threats posed by COVID-19 and the current socio-political atmosphere in our country. A better sense of community could be created by allowing for more getting to know each other time or various activities like that. I know this general assembly was very different and it's hard to know what it will look like in a few years, but it would be great if there would be a way for people to simply engage with one another in be together live and in person

It was very important to have some personal interaction. I was very grateful for the in-person committee Even if only during a limited together portion, having some form of exhibit hall (or a virtual format of an exhibit Having GA in-person would be extremely meaningful in terms of community. I absolutely loved being in-person for committee work. Despite being one of the youngest people in the room, I felt extremely welcomed and valued by my fellow committee members, and I don't think I would've felt the same way had our committee been required to meet via Zoom. Thus, I hope that for future GA, we could still consider having GA be either fully in-person, or use the hybrid format and continue to do committee work in-person. While the idea of in-person plenary sounds nice, I think that it is extremely important for committees to form that sense of fellowship with Please consider: An opening "meet and greet" time for the commissioners assigned to their given committee. It is difficult to establish working relationships without first getting to know colleagues.

Next time in-person plenaries will help.

Maybe have some online social time for all commissioners from a Synod. Maybe consider ways to connect introverts (that are not mixers or social games). Maybe host a happy hour that somehow groups people? Need non-alcoholic options. From what I observed, it seemed that people who knew other people were migrating toward forming social groups with the known people which is great and understandable, but new people or

We can pray that the additional burden of Covid masking and limitations will go away. That might allow for a "get to know" meeting where all participants could mingle.

Make chat spaces available for commissioners and advisory delegates. Organize optional informal opportunities outside of the work, particularly ahead of time and during the virtual work.

We must meet in person. Not being able to talk to Advisory delegates outside of the plenary renders their contributions totally moot. They are just expressing non-binding opinions. Who are they? What is their expertise? What gifts of insight do they bring? -- The Conference Rooms that we did our committee business in were cramped and not well laid out. ALSO if we have to be ON ZOOM in a SMALL ROOM to hear translation then WHY Have it all in person.

It is up to commissioners to befriend the advisory delegates. They are a tremendous resource for us all.

I repeat: having it all in person, in one location.

Our committee did meet on zoom at least twice before travel to Louisville, but not all members could attend, so it would help if our first day had included a little more community time. It took a bit of time to get all of us

The commissioners and advisory delegates did not have opportunity to gather as one body which is understandable due to Covid protocol. But, even during breaks and lunch time, we did not really have time to ?

I don't know if it is possible to make a better sense of community with the number of people on Zoom. The only interaction was through the moderators. They did a terrific job, but it did not really feel like a community since I was a substitute commissioner and I'm not able to speak to what was done prior to GA.

At GA-226, Omega format, consider spreading Committee ZOOM sessions out over a period of weeks. The 4-5 days straight of Plenaries was difficult for participants and families. At SLC, make time for Committees to eat together, sit together, do Hands and Feet together, etc. The relationships are built in the smaller group. The Allow for online chat rooms and devotional space during breaks and meals.

Perhaps, a little more team building can be done on Zoom beforehand, and when in person. I would imagine that it is really difficult to create that sense of community fully with time constraints, and the number of Maybe some fun events. Even online zoom trivia or something

With committee work on-line (Omega), I'm not sure. Being in-person to do the close, intense work of committee seemed best to me for building the sense of community. It did not happen at plenary - On-line/Zoom doesn't allow for that. I do know it was really important for me to attend the plenary with the other commissioner from our Presbytery, both of us in the same room. We used a big screen and computer for worship/meetings Get us back in person!

I found out only after arriving in baggage claim that I had flown all the way from my home airport with another commissioner from a different presbytery - couldn't there be a way to connect the regional travelers/commissioners better? I would have appreciated time with seasoned commissioners around the way of business at GA and their experiences. I think directed pair and share opportunities for any in-person portion of gatherings would ease connection a bit more. Also, I think it would have been cool to offer some sort of dinner-with-a-group-of-strangers sign up for those of us who didn't know anyone. Things were fine, but if given Perhaps this is a question for chaplains? I am mindful that they were available to us, but perhaps they might have been more visible - praying with the committees or "live" during the plenaries. This is a tough question because some folks have the problem of "nostalgia" that colors their experience. I enjoyed my committee members although I did notice that we entered that room and treated it like our workspace and I did not engage with anyone on the other side of the room unless I meandered over there or made an intentional move during lunch. Maybe making different use of the "resources" tab or community space in PC Biz would have been helpful.

I believe the format selected for 226 General Assembly will facilitate a better sense of community. The committees will be able to develop community over Zoom while we could not do that in Plenary.

Not sure if there is a way to make an online Assembly have a sense of community. I had a great sense of community. Please see above about allowing space and time for special interest groups to meet -- perhaps by having meals together or having hospitality suites or information booths. Having committee groups convene at different times did not allow for everyone from my presbytery or nearby to be there at the same time and to bond.

Please try to bring the entire G.A. together at one time so that we can meet others from around the country more readily, particularly those who are serving in areas of common interest or to allow more time to explore

Allow for time for commissioners to get together outside of committee/plenary sessions.

Elements that are conducive to forming relationships are essential. Personally, I wish more had been done locally to build camaraderie with other commissioners from my presbytery before GA. My committee Co-mods hosted a Zoom gathering prior to GA to create an opportunity for connections to develop. This should be done more (and perhaps will be) prior to GA 226 since committees will meet online. Once commissioners go to SLC, it would be beneficial for them to spend some time gathering with their committee colleagues before moving on to the business of plenary. I also hope some of the components of the traditional model can be incorporated (e.g.,

Community was fine.

Planned activities, even if online, to allow them to meet and introduce themselves as soon as possible. There was space for folks to record videos and introductory messages, but I don't think many people participated.

Maybe if there is something scheduled or if each Commissioner and Advisory Delegate at least post a short bio, Reminding attendees that we are Presbyterians there to make the church more Christlike and that we are part of a diverse and ecumenical group called by God is very important.

OGA should strongly recommend a calendar of supporting events that presbyteries could utilize to encourage their commissioners. I honestly feel that we had very little support from the presbytery. Losing our stated clerk early on didn't help. When I accept a responsibility such as being a commissioner, I want to be super-conscientious in carrying out my responsibilities. I felt that I was in some sort of limbo, wanting to read and Community development for my generation requires physical presence. Therefore! My younger colleagues do not, so I would listen to them more intentional than me.

Have a good new or old fashioned hymn sing together on Friday evening!

Again I think a light breakfast would help add to the comradery not just in our committee but with others as As I said above. We were all so engaged in our work that most of our conversation gravitated around that. Which is a good thing but a more casual something would of been nice. The moderators did help us to get to know each

Go back to an all in person committee and plenary gathering with ample opportunity to mix and fellowship with I missed connecting with other commissioners from my presbytery as we were on different committees and we live a distance from each other. So although we were commissioned together, we really didn't feel like we

Meeting in person is obviously critical in this endeavor. The more that can meet at once, the better. It is also important to include those who prefer or are limited to online participation. Maybe having introductory videos for more leaders would help? Also, an understanding of what the tech support people are doing to help us

Not sure but having some intentional time planned - no work, no plenary just social

By not establishing divisions in support. Exclusivity breeds distrust for the excluded, even if it is unfounded.

Work to keep the in person GA Plenaries from becoming cliques of same minded representatives. Encourage healthy and respectful debate rather than establishing an atmosphere that disagreement is pre-judged as

Some of this relates to above - uniformity and simplicity in conducting business. I cannot speak for advisory delegates. Also, being on B&O, my in-person relationship with the committee were very limited and hopefully not the norm for other committees. The first weekend was nice, and it was great to get to sit and talk to people

It would have been nice to have some social events or other activities scheduled during the time we were present for committee items. Let's stop using the excuse to not do things because of Covid concerns. If people

A better sense of community would be created by having the full plenary sessions in person which I understand to be in consideration for the 226th General Assembly.

I think this was super hard for this assembly because of covid and the way things were planned. I, personally, don't really think having our cameras on in zoom really made any sort of difference when it came to community because I literally never looked at the little screens. I only had the speaker view on my screen. So my camera was on, because I'm a rule follower, but it's not like there was any interaction or any reason for it to be on unless I was speaking. Our committee had few IOB's and so our moderator had us do a lot of team building exercises during committee time. I'm sure some people enjoyed that, I hated it. But you know. I had a group of pastors who I had a group chat with, and that's how I built community during plenary. We asked each other questions and were able to chat and if one of us had to step away or lost internet the others could fill them in on any in 2004, I was an Elder Delegate and the experience was great and terrible, but being with others and getting to Committee meetings prior to arrival? Intro, get to know, etc. We spent zero time on this with the exception of name and hometown. Greetings from SC, PMA Pres.? Suggestions how those who wish can get together outside Synod training to get to know. Regional commissioners we were traveling with. Airport in Louisville was very confusing. Some folks never found the welcome desk. BUSES TO airport also very confusing Per diem Maybe something simple like assigned seating with a focus on people sitting next to people they don't already Some non-working time to engage with each other.

In our committee training, only the leadership members introduced themselves. I think we should have taken That is really hard. I heard there were some gatherings for the Foundation or something, that I missed. My leadership team did not want to do online team building before arriving and I think that was a big mistake, and will be even worse for the next GA with committees virtual. I have visited GA before, for short parts, and I think the resource area is also important in building community. It is a place where you know everyone is part of GA and you have something in common. I heard the cry for community so loud and agree, as an extrovert who loves my Presby friends, that it is important. That said, I came to GA for the business and work of the PCUSA and not to make lifelong friends. I have found those at Continuing education events. I also heard people on social The COVID precautions were important to help keep us safe, but also provided real limitations in terms of creating community. Since most of the committees that met while we were there finished their work with time to spare, perhaps we could have had a longer break for lunch, which would have provided more opportunity to visit with each other. My committee met for dinner the first night before our business began, but my plane had I already mentioned the need for more intentional community building for YAADs. Hopefully conditions will allow for group meals so people can sit around tables to talk. Putting people in small groups (not from their own presbytery) at the beginning of the first plenary to introduce themselves to each other. You will be able to meet The format next time will be different but it would have been nice to have the option of dinner groups/outings. It was quite lonely if you happened to be there without other members of your Presbytery.

I had a sense of community even online, even when I felt like I wasn't being heard because of the format.

Hold the meeting in-person. The dynamics of debate and discussion are so much better in-person. The decision to conduct committee meetings via zoom for GA226 is a flawed approach. The committees will not work as efficiently and effectively as they would in-person. The proper dynamics just are not present in the virtual This is a challenge with some parts online. Gathering by committee, by synod, by "like" congregations (large, small, rural, urban, campus, etc.) would be good. A "Birds of a feather" gathering. A gathering of stated clerks, Certainly, person to person committee sessions.

All in person. Find a way for like-minded participants to get together prior to the GA.

The presbyteries of Grace and Mission chose to meet together to watch the Zoom plenaries for the week together. This was a good bonding experience for us. Genius move. Also, unintended consequence of zoom was that the close-up video of the moderators for a solid week versus from a giant convention hall gave it an intimacy with a "friendly" atmosphere and spiritually calming effect. Other people who have attended in the past also said that our group sometimes joked around with each other (almost in a disrespectful way) but in a

We could have had fellowship Zooms ahead of time. Our synod (South Atlantic) held a couple training sessions early on, then split us into small groups based on which committee shift we'd be on. At least there were some
If zoom is utilized again, deploy breakout rooms to create space for folks to share and get to know one another?
I understand part of this was due to concern about CoViD, but it was very difficult for me to to build relationships with my committee members. The half hour lunches were barely sufficient just to eat and return and there was no way for me to connect with other committee members in the evening. Consider having a designated spot for individuals to meet up for dinner and/or conversation. With the format of the next GA, consider having an
I feel the key to community is what I refer to as "hallway time". Informal opportunities to appreciate each others gifts and take enjoyment in the person we call sister/brother/family.

It IS possible to create a sense of community on Zoom, but this year's GA failed to do so. Since we couldn't interact informally during breaks or meals, there needed to be times on the agenda where such informal interaction was built-in (5-10 minute blocks would be fine, it wouldn't need to be long). Breakout rooms could be utilized so that people could interact in small groups. People would obviously need to be able to be unmuted
Have more opportunities to gather, whether online via Zoom or in person. I would have felt disconnected if it
For these last 2 GAs, that I've participated in, Twitter #ga225 actually provided a great community for me. I was able to hear other views, communicate with other commissioners, express frustrations, express praise, etc. I also realize it can be too easy a platform to get a bit nasty, but that's what Twitter is and it's not going to change for GA. There's no safe way to provide in person community during this pandemic we've been living in the last 2 plus years. I tested + for COVID on the 1st day of the GA meeting. If I'd been in a city convention center somewhere, I would be stuck in a hotel room and not able to participate in anything. Instead I was home, nothing changed, my vote still counted. I think the days of in person meetings with 700 people should be very carefully assessed and perhaps not entertained any more. I realize that would be a major major change for how PC(USA) does it's GA work. But we have to change to continue to be impactful and equitable. Despite that, I loved the in person committee meetings. Conversation with those around me was very important. Even though
Groups organized around commonality, interests, seminaries, CREs, More information on things to do. Where was were the local Louisville folks? There absence was very noticeable. For example the spreadsheet list of restaurants was totally inadequate. Commissioners needed vetted information about the best places to go and why including pricing. Local establishments should have been approached to offer deals and to be prepared.
Not possible online.

More designed "meet up" space by interest if the meetings are virtual.

Since committees will meet on Zoom for the next assembly, exploring how that platform can be better used in that way will be essential. My experience is that one of its great weaknesses is its inability to foster interpersonal interactions. For example, during in-person committee work, when people speak on opposing sides of an issue,
It took me 2 days to meet people and enjoy a sense of community. During that time the evenings were lonely. If there had been some meet and greet opportunities, it would have been helpful. Perhaps some sign-up sheets for going to dinner in the evenings together could have achieved that. During our lunch break I noticed people still
Nothing

Greater access or invitation to communal rooms

The more in-person the better. Meals, especially.

Experiencia vs Procesos Adoraci3n Tiempo de calidad entre comisionados y delegados Actividades comunes
Have the whole Assembly be in person.

1. Fewer resolutions with more opportunity to discuss them in small groups. The rooms are set up for lectures; they are not conducive to conversation. 2. There were only one or two speakers in the room who I could not hear without having my ear pieces in. So I tended to leave them out. And of course they were essential for speakers online. The problem was the lag time and hearing the speaker in the room twice. Distracted from the import of what was being said. 3. Longer and better lunches. The chance to share across generations and geography (and
Do away with zoom. It is an uninspiring and isolating experience.

Eliminate the pandemic? Seriously, time together is the only way, but I'm a mask-wearer and people who don't
Not sure how you normally do things in a non-covid situation. While committee work probably could have been
handled via Zoom just as easily, especially since we were on zoom anyway. However, it was helpful to make
relationships with other members, which can't be done on zoom. For EAD, it is helpful to build some form of
Committee moderators should know it is ok to contact committee members and schedule meetings with their
If done remotely, having informal get togethers prior to meeting as committees would help. Testimony sharing
among people and experience related to issues to be considered would help give life to the issues.
due to covid, it was hard to make a community. I hope the next in-person GA will have more opportunities to get
More networking events prior to GA

More in person meeting spaces and activities.

Leave more time for lunch/conversations

idk

By making sure that it is in IN-PERSON as much as possible. There need to be important opportunities to interact
over meals and breaks; outside activities (TOTALLY lacking in this assembly, a very, very, VERY bad situation...do
you gather that I thought it a mistake?), traveling together (I noticed for example on my 11am trip from the
airport to the committee meeting in Louisville that not a single person spoke or interacted, nor did they really
when we arrived at Galt House). The only reason that I met anyone outside of my committee room and the
No suggestions.

I think a lot of commissioners look down on the advisory delegates and see us as stupid/immature and not
worthy of having a vote. If there was a way to make our vote count more or allow us to make motions or
amendment in plenary, not just in committee meetings, I truly feel that advisory delegates, especially YAADS,
More, other than the voting, should be in-person.

As long as hybrid is necessary, it is going to be difficult. I do think it will be somewhat easier with committees
Me gustÃ³ mucho este modelo hÃ¡brido. Pieso que el contactopersonal es necesario y nos enriquece como
I do not know the answer to this. However I do know that people being together socializing, praying,
worshipping make a difference to atmosphere and giving a chance to develop relationships leads to better
More time for to get together and hang out

I found the advisory board input to be valuable.

As I stated previously in-person plenary will help. But, of course, the best would be to have everything in-person
help that the best. As we have all learned during the COVID pandemic there might not ever be a session,
presbytery, synod, or GA that is only offered in-person ever again, much less a worship service. At least in my
Creat small groups in committees that would stay together for discussion, plan worship together and be
encouraged to bound outside of the committee meetings.

as said before more bonding opportunities, this could include workshops, informal zoom meetings and more.

I think that the plan to have the plenaries in person will be helpful. I know that there were a number of YAADS
that were upset that the committees will be online at the next one because they felt like their voices won't be
heard as well. If future assemblies remain some sort of hybrid, maybe consideration can be given to allowing
part of all of one day to be dedicated to the committee work so that there is a bit of both in person and it still
won't be as expensive as a full in person assembly. I was a commissioner for the 224th and 225th assemblies so I
Encuentros por regiones e inter regiones claro si no hay covid-19 creo que fue la limitante en esta asamblea.
Doing work via zoom makes community-building difficult. Since the next GA will be on zoom for committees, I
would suggest scheduling "get to know you" committee meetings ahead of actual committee work so people can
connect. I hope that the in person GA format next time will give opportunity for the interaction among
Again, fuller discussion that allows more people to speak helps familiarize the participants with each other.

I think the process for next GA will be better. Online committee work will allow more time for the technology to
keep up, and in-person plenaries will better facilitate for questions and debate.

Perhaps some pre-event could be done.

I think if we are going to continue in some sort of hybrid format, it makes sense to do the reverse of what we did this year (what has been approved for 2024). Smaller groups are easier on Zoom. I think it's hard to create community on Zoom regardless of size, but potentially easier with a smaller group. And discussion/business is If safe (a big if!) having set space for folks to gather in between meetings would help, as well as social events. I don't know what more could have been done this year with COVID rates as high as they are.

Plenaries need to be in person. We need to feel real people making real decisions. Zoom is too impersonal for In non-covid times (or times when it has calmed down more than now), it would be great to have an organized evening to get to know fellow commissioners after our committee work.

Planned evening mixers.

N/A

It would be easy to establish spaces for each of the committees to socialize in and get to know one another. However you can't make folks attend and get to know one another. This is a challenge that we need to address Zoom is convenient, but is never going to create community -- at least not for me. My Synod offered all commissioners the opportunity to gather in one place and "do" the assembly together. I would not have been nearly as "engaged" if I was at home alone. Plus, people were able to help with the technology aspects which I Host an in-person general welcoming/ fellowship time-- if there are no health prohibitions. If there is another pandemic or health and safety concerns, host a series of general get to know you sessions.

Nothing additional to add.

As long as there is at least one in-person component (when feasible from a public health standpoint), then community can be created. I like that we met in person in committees because it seemed like a less intimidating group. I know the 226th plan is to have committees online and plenaries in person, so it will be interesting to see Oh, this is hard. I hope that with in-person plenary, we can bring back some of the activities (meals sponsored by certain groups, exhibit hall, YAAD in-person activities together) that build community. That would have helped a lot. While I understand why the group chat was disabled, it did feel like we lost the chance to be in conversation - casual, spiritual, or strategic - with other commissioners. People took to Twitter, but the problem there is that things that could (and maybe SHOULD) be said privately are suddenly broadcast into a very public sphere. Also, not all commissioners are on Twitter. I wonder if there's a way to offer a space for people to chat with one another that neither disrupts the meeting, nor sends the conversation into the dumpster fire of social media. With the Omega format, this will be different, as in-person plenary convos can happen. I wonder - could committees have the chat function back? Could it be possible to chat people individually, but not the whole I would have liked to be able to "chat" with members of our committee during plenary to get advice/ feedback etc. It would be nice if chat was enabled or encouraged through individual texting platforms. I would have like opportunities to gather (outside/ online) with other participants outside of lunch breaks. I appreciate the BIPOC The most valuable time for a commissioner is time spent with others in a social context. Salt Lake City has many things to see and do and is worth a hand's-feet event. The decision to how we will relate to the Mormon culture deserves deep thoughts and I suggest extensive conversations with the Host Utah Presbytery on how to extend More time in person, some social gatherings during committee time for those who have not been to GA's a number of times. It was an awful lot of "old home week" which happened to exclude those who are not Frequent GA-ers. I don't know what else you could do about this. Thank you for all you did to enhance this It would've been nice (albeit expensive) to have a meal together..like a social hour. More smaller discussion groups during committee work time. Creating intentional space in committee time to center their (delegates)

I believe that it is very important to have all in person events for future General Assemblies. There were only eight of us that were advisory delegates and since we were so small most of us did not meet each other. I was the only TSAD during my committee meeting group present. It felt very isolating because people didn't know how to place me in conversations because I was not a YAD but I am not a voting member of the plenaries. As a TSAD we only met twice over Zoom and there was never a time all of us met. I believe in person events would help our committee to become closer and to be able to understand the polity of general assembly in more detail. I also believe there should be more discussion at each committee session reminding people of respect for peoples comments, thoughts, questions, etc. I felt that this was forgotten in my committee meeting. I got very Online makes community-building difficult but I guess Zoom community building exercises would be helpful.

In person!

Again, COVID was an issue and I have no other experience. A planned outing in the city with sign up ahead of See above as the pandemic (hopefully) wanes. For 2024, it will be important for the committees to have online time to develop a sense of community and team before they actually start their work. And going forward, if we I would have availed myself of hospitality suites, or informal meeting rooms, open outside of committee workdays. In Salt Lake City this would be a good thing for evenings after plenary. I recommend an outing (tourist/sightseeing) on final day even if it's only for indiv. committees. Something like a steamboat ride would Our committee, Rules of Discipline, had several Zoom meetings to meet prior to our meeting in Louisville. That was an excellent way to see the Moderator and Co-Moderator, and committee members.

Shared worship experiences during committee work, more intentional opportunities to connect with There was a wonderful sense of Community. The in Person committee work was fantastic. I'm glad that was not online. The Community Experience would have been heightened with live Worship and Plenaries but we did A lot of people emphasize the in-person aspect, but I hope a hybrid format is here to stay because it allows for greater participation. I would not have been able to take off for the entire time if everything had been in the Arrange optional small groups for socializing or debriefing.

A better sense of community could be created by personally getting to know other committee members in advance. My committee had one zoom meeting, but more would have been helpful. Perhaps a short bio and I honestly don't know. I made a point to limit my engagement with people at my committee meetings to limit my chance of getting sick, since I had an important event to attend shortly after our committee meeting. So I did not even try to make connections with people. I think it would have been nice to do, given other circumstances.

It's easier to build community onsite (in person) than online but not impossible. For both you need adequate down time to naturally gather. Fifteen minute breaks and 30 minute lunches onsite only gave us enough time to tend to personal needs and not enough to be social when we were in committees. Not all committees could spare time to be social during their time together. Not all moderators are comfortable with or good at "get to Somehow get them to talk to one another. The Advisory Delegates spent more time with their age people and I enjoy getting to know the youth and would have liked to have spent more time visiting with them. Pick their

I think that putting the Committee work on Zoom and having the Plenary work live will enhance the experience. This is difficult to answer as I have only had the zoom plenary sessions experiences.

Our committee work was filled with community. I met so many new friends and made some terrific contacts. In the future if we have to be online again, I would suggest meeting together via zoom ahead of committee time. Everyone was brand new when I walked into committee. Also there had been some kind of community building that I was unaware of -- someone had asked everyone to post something interesting about themselves but I Have get togethers for all- similar to how the YAADs had evening social events, etc.

Cohorts for those on Committees that meet for 3-4 times on Zoom before the gatherings. Directed questions to have some power to decide ahead of time what should be discussed. We had several issues that were outdated due to Covid and War in Ukraine. There were multiple overtures on the same general topic. The could have be A gathering where the commissioners actually get a chance to meet all the ADs - there are not that many and they add so much insight into the future to which we need to adapt.

Pienso que la equidad por género, etnia o raza, roles (comisionados y delegados), jóvenes, jóvenes adultos, adultos y adultos mayores, estuvo acorde con los criterios de participación en los Comités de Trabajo. Hubo sentido de comunidad integracionista. Al compartir, en el desarrollo de los negocios encomendados por comité de trabajo, luego se podía compartir socialmente con otros integrantes de otros comités. En líneas

Having small in person meetings, meal times, and affinity group able to meet in person

The event hall might help. However, I think that we had a sense of community with our refreshments/lunch breaks and we made dinner arrangements with each other.

Meeting with committee beforehand, even on Zoom.

in-person meetings for both plenaries and committees. Outside of that, more virtual forums for people to interact. If there was a database of commissioner's contact info I could never find it. Perhaps one that people could have the OPTION of being listed if they wanted to contact one another via email, text, whatever. On several different occasions I had to google people and/or search for them on facebook to contact them. On one occasion I had to facebook message a commissioner's church to get contact information for her. It ended up being a blessing because our text conversation moved her to fashion an amendment that passed by a large margin during plenary. We both wished there was a better way of doing that. I was told that different Agencies I understand the safety wisdom of staggered snack and lunch times, but it meant that we were almost never in the same vicinity as our colleagues on other committees. I think there would be a lot of improvement in a sense of community if the protocols were relaxed some, though I understand that has different sort of community problems. Again, the committee rooms were set up much more like an anonymous lecture hall. The GAs I have been to (not as a commissioner) had committees set up in a U shape. That allows for most folks to see most everyone else on their committee. It was bad enough that masks make it hard to see faces. (Though I do understand why masks were required - it's just that not seeing each other's faces, even masked, killed some of the community vibe.) I think having communal worship before committee times began would have been great. By communal I mean in-person. But if we are going to go with strict COVID protocols (and I was so disappointed that we will be hybrid for 2024), and I can understand why we would choose that, we simply have to accept that we will have much less community than in previous General Assemblies. We can't have everything, so we will have to be mindful about all the trade-offs involved in various possibilities. This may sound weird, but I think increase the time in plenary by one day so we wouldn't get so rushed on the end of the time together. Maybe have each presbytery do a group shot of the commissioners and all so we could get a sense of all of the people. Allow time for them to meet and get together. It was hard, because of Covid, but time together, face-to-face. In addition to encouraging community building within committees, provide time and space for commissioners to meet and mingle with one another outside of Committee meetings.

Be together, in person, for as much time as possible.

More time for engaging with other commissioners and advisory delegates.

Have communities for folks to participate in during plenary. Being alone at home or in your office does not build

I realize this wasn't possible due to Covid, but it would have been nice to have organized gathering times that weren't committee work. I was the only commissioner from my Presbytery in group 1 and I'm an introvert so it

I think we need to be cautious about using too many resource people in final reports. Consent agenda items that were reviewed in final report got too lengthy - almost compromising the spirit of those reports. It would be good to offer a time frame (ie 20 minutes) for those items - otherwise they shouldn't be on the consent agenda.

Small group discussions built into committee meetings among committee members and representatives of the interests associated with overtures. More time for lunch and breaks for informal conversations Sign-ups for

Have in-person plenaries.

More out of meeting engagements

No suggestions

** I just don't think this can be done well in an online format. We need to have fully in-person meetings. ** At the plenary, people could be given more time to talk. ** Committee staff could work to create a community before and during the meeting time. (See my earlier comment.) ** It surprised me to see the committee's resource people (not staff but resource people from the committee that was bringing business to the GA In-person committee work was essential for me. If we are to continue with online committee work, I would suggest some time for community building such as breakout rooms in groups of 3-4 to get to know each other and options for debrief breaks, where people could self-select ways to engage with other committee members. With the approved plan of Committees online and Plenary in person, I would hope there could be a set time to end each day in order for community building in the evenings. I believe the YAAD's might especially seek that.

None

I thought our moderator and her team did an exceptional job of "breaking the ice" with the committee members. I can't imagine how you could do it better.

Voted for the new format in 226th General Assembly.

Make sure there are outings planned for those who might not have a connection yet. Or a place to make those connections. Maybe a small groups divided up of people who do not "have people" on site yet?

The way to improve community would be to have both in-person committee time and in-person plenary time. Then make sure there is an exhibit hall that allows us to talk and learn from others. The outings are also a great The Synod trainings helped. Will ponder on your question.

I don't know, but yes, better community would be nice.

I think the Omega format will help, but there still has to be some intentional time for smaller groups to meet

That is a problem with hybrid settings. I don't know the answer.

In person is definitely better than online. Perhaps meetings areas for interest groups other than the "minorities".

At times, in our efforts to be inclusive in some ways, it felt very exclusive in others. Some of us are not as "liberal" about some things that were discussed, but there wasn't a space at all for us. It was even to the extreme of being intimidating if we said anything. I talked to several that didn't feel included because we were

Have more in person dinners/happy hours. Have sign ups for dinners at certain restaurants.

In a post-covid world, hopefully more mixers so committee members can meet people outside their groups, and more times for spontaneous fun during plenary days. Our presbytery was not able to provide much training for our YAAD, but we might have if given a template. More swag, like coffee mugs or other gifts of appreciation.

I think participating in different co-horts, we were not given the opportunity to meet and greet each other

Continue to reiterate that everyone should remain neutral when discussing sensitive subjects.

Having everyone together in person.

Round table discussions for small groups might explore issues in a more open environment before votes are taken. Earlier access to overtures would help encourage discussion.

Meet for plenaries AND for committees IN PERSON, IN PERSON, IN PERSON.

Form dinner groups, after hour conversation groups, invite special interest groups into discussion, OGA staff to lead or participate in these conversation so commissioners and advisory delegates to bring the gap between

I made friends which I did not expect to do. It was such a sense of belonging. I just got back from Synod School and I wore the T-shirt and people stopped and asked questions. I got to meet other commissioners that attended

See previous answer "I am a data nerd and I would have liked to know more about others serving by description (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, geography, etc.) as well as role. Also, make the commissioner list

There was a lot of free time outside of committee, there was not a lot of intentional planning to drive any community building or relationship building. If I had not known a couple folks coming into the event, I would have been alone in the evening of the first few days. I did not make personal connections with individuals until a few days later or the last day of our time in Louisville. Some individuals did this on their own, but as someone who was not connected to many people coming in, finding out about groups, social media chat groups and get

Again, being redundant, by being together, this would allow all to get to know and understand each other.

Community building is a key concern, especially for advisory delegates who vote in committee and not in plenary. However, the community is created with time and vulnerability, two things the GA process is short on. Perhaps the 226 style will help by allowing community to develop in committees via zoom and having some planned committee gathering time at Salt Lake. Community is also better created over meals, snacks, and in It would be hard to top the welcome that was offered by the Presbytery in Louisville! They were GREAT!

Have dinners and/or social hours. I ate every breakfast and dinner alone.

I felt an appropriate amount of this occurred for this assembly and would not do more of this - we are finite people and focus needs to remain on our primary purpose in this/these gatherings.

As long as part or all of Assembly meetings are online or hybrid format, the ability to create a better sense of community is going to be limited at best. Zoom meetings do not foster community, at least tht is what I find to Besides meet in person? ðŸ˜ƒ”

I appreciated that before my Committee met in person, we had a couple of Zoom gatherings where we could get to know one another (utilizing break out rooms, etc). I don't think that would work for the plenaries, given their size. But, it helped me to feel like I knew my fellow committee members before I arrived in Louisville to begin As stated above, some optional organized evening activities. Sharing email addresses and phone numbers of all commissioners (with their permission) would be nice to stay connected after it's over.

Our committee did not go out and have a meal together. I think it would be good if that could be worked into The more in person time we have, the better the give and take of discussions, more opportunity to relate to a I would suggest that each committee may have its own social gathering time during the committee week.

The committee meeting being held in person was a great step towards this goal. If the committee meetings are held online at the next GA, a in would be a step backwards from the goal of better sense of community.

Zoom meeting can be fun with more use of break out groups and with assigned prayer partners outside of zoom

I really enjoyed going out to dinner (with the debit card, thank you) and having personal conversations with

Create multiple opportunities for virtual and in-person meet and greets and forums prior to and during GA.

Hopefully, Covid will not be a deterrent to future in-person gatherings.

community building exercises at times during the assembly

Puede ser tener una reuniÃ³n pre-asamblea con los comisionados de los comitÃ©s.

Small groups to discuss specific topics

Go back to an in person week (maybe travel on Friday, meet Saturday through Saturday, and travel Sunday.)

Assign committees earlier. Take the money for Big Tent and weave it and its purposes into GA. Make GA accessible for observers. Have more General Presbyters and Synod execs directly involved. Maybe choose three locations based on available facilities and airports and just bounce one to the other. Invite other synods to send

Please use the space below for any additional comments about the 225th General Assembly.

I'm grateful for most of what we accomplished. And even though I had some frustrations, I am grateful. Oh, and worship was fantastic! Particularly Kate Murphy and the music during that service in particular.

Overall, this was a wonderful learning experience and well executed. I am grateful for the opportunity. Thanks to all involved in the planning and pulling this off so well.

Everyone tried to make the best out of a bad situation. It was sad to be separated from the rest of the commissioners from my Presbytery (they were in the other week) it was too bad you weren't able to attend to issues like that to build a sense of community and safety for commissioners. Also- turn the chat on. It makes the

I know this was not easy and overall the planners, staff, and volunteers did a good job-but I wish I had been a commissioner in another year-or would rather have had it all online-since there was no community provided I enjoyed my first GA and experience as a commissioner. I was not prepared for the long plenary days and was I love our co-moderators and the opportunity I had. Nothing is ever perfect and I know there is always room to improve but I think what I take away is less of the frustration about how things could have been done differently

One of the most meaningful moments was when we passed a resolution to divest investments from major oil companies. Another was about gun violence issues. Because so many issues are packed in the daily schedule, I am not sure how adequately we cover urgent matters to apply to corporate and individual life. A lot more implementable items were not addressed. Here are some examples of tangible applications everyone can make: 1) ban single-use of plastic:2) measure CO2 emission: 3) measure how much trash churches and individuals produce...etc. During the committee meeting in Louisville, lunch produced a lot of nonperishable trash. During the break, I found no healthy snacks I could consume. Obesity among more than 40 people on the committee

A job well done. I'm proud of our church!

The Presbyterian Center was nice. The Galt House was nice. Louisville was nice in general. I appreciated everyone's efforts to be equitable. On Thursday morning (I think) one commissioner made a statement to the effect that committees had put a lot of effort into the wording of the reports and that we should respect that and stop nit-picking the language of the motions. Once he said that, everyone settled down. Co-mods next time might OPEN with a statement like that, save a lot of time. Loved the idea of opening/closing with prayer from a I am very excited about the work we accomplished and so grateful for everyone who made this happen.

The worship services during plenary were wonderful! The sermons were powerful, the music was great, the liturgy was beautifully crafted, and the artwork/images were amazing! And, thank you for the meals and snacks/beverages at the committee meetings. They were really appreciated. I found that the in-person format for the committee meetings helped me to connect with other attendees, whether during committee meetings, conversations at meals, or socializing outside. Also, during the committee meetings, having the opportunity to have sidebar conversations, no matter people's roles, was invaluable, especially for a newbie like me. I was told This was my 15th GA but only the second as a voting commissioner. (The first time was in the olden days when we had to stand up and be counted when the vote tally was necessary.) Based on long observation, to me the commissioners behaved the way they have always done even though the type of venue was different. I realize that many presentations and responses need to be "scripted" in order to prevent unfortunate wording or terminology, but to some persons, listening and watching people read from a printed source (and sometimes I did pass this along to the tech folk in my Committee - but there are wireless desk top microphone systems available which would have eliminated the need for the committee leadership to pass microphones around during the meeting. I have been using one in my congregation for connecting Zoom participants to Adult Sunday School and Bible Studies, and the cost of these systems is coming down since the beginning of the pandemic. As I explained to my Presbytery Nominating Com when I applied, I wanted another Triennium-like experience The OGA is to be given much appreciation and gratitude. Thank you! My faith was strengthened in the time spent interacting within the 225th GA. I am most grateful.

Good work was done It was not perfect, but I think we can feel satisfied and proud of how things worked and

The moderators did a good job moving things along and keeping spirits up. The parliamentarian fulfilled her role well - helpful but not overbearing, striving to find a way for the body to carry out its will. The orientation videos I would do it again except for the time commitment. It was hard getting that time off and even in the plenaries, it took so much time. I take care of my elderly mother and was running back and forth at our breaks so it was kind of stressful. I enjoyed it though and loved Louisville. It was so easy getting around there. It was like a Sabbath for None

The moderators did a good job of putting us at ease, explaining process, offering prayer at key moments of decision making and modeling self care. Tricia is a treasure! Planning plenaries over multiple time zones was Please continue email communication with participants so that we know about opportunities to serve on the bodies created by our work. I want to continue serving!

I am one of the few people I know who traveled this summer and attended a conference who did not come back with Covid. Thank you for the hard work that was put in to keeping us safe!

N/A

I have MUCH admiration for Tricia Dykers-Koenig and her professionalism and level-headed advice. However, on Saturday morning when we were trying to "reconsider" several IOB's from Friday, we were instructed that we could NOT discuss the proposed motion until the vote to reconsider had been successful (or not). Those of us who wanted to sponsor a substitute motion for GA-MC-15 felt that our hands were tied with no recourse when we were basically told "no" because the assembly voted NOT to reconsider (case closed). Then, right after lunch, we were presented with another motion to reconsider the HSB IOB pertaining to maternity/medical leave. This This experience moved me deeply as I reflected on the image of the church that was conveyed.

Thank you for making a challenging General Assembly format with a truly formidable number of business items (and all taking place during an ongoing pandemic) as smooth as you did. I could tell the amount of time, attention to detail, and passion everyone had poured into it. Knowing the challenges you faced and that nothing When at the end there were many thanks for many people that made GA work, maybe I missed it but did not hear any accolades for the Parliamentarian. I can not imagine what a mess things would have been without her Please ENSURE that OGA and PMA keep doing their good work, despite institutional efforts to 'change the deck chairs'. Failure to preserve the mission of the PCUSA will certainly make it the Titanic. And THANK YOU TO ALL OF I had the most awesome spiritual experience.

Excellent Wonderful and enriching experience

Thank you for doing this hard work. Having worked assemblies before, words are I suffice to to adequately

Excelente experiencia

I continue to find it difficult to enter into Presbyterian spaces as someone under 40 who is not a cradle Presbyterian. I say that as the Stated Clerk of my Presbytery. I think more has to be done to identify the barriers to entry and spaces where folks don't feel welcomed. Because we don't know the history of an issue in the church or because we didn't go to a PCUSA seminary or because we don't understand all of the systems of the church. I think that the staff for the National church tries hard to remove these barriers but they are very strong I thank you for the preparation of the General Assembly. The only problem we had as who lives in Africa is the different times. Zoom meeting were organized at night on our side.

Loved most everything about GA 225. My only suggestions would be not to have all the heavy hearted IOB on the same day and somehow figure out how to not have such long days.

Overall a wonderful, Spirit-filled time and as always a connection to the whole church! I do think playing "Hot Pants" immediately following a discussion on sexual harrasment was inappropriate but no equity primes were followed (I know there were several complaints about that.) And to be diverse is great and should be pursued. Calling on the same single commissioner from Alabama on every debate was uncalled for even if he did

I'm incredibly grateful that I was able to be present and participate in this GA. May God's Spirit continue to be felt within our denomination and all of our congregations.

Fue una excelente experiencia, me siento orgullosa de mi iglesia. Las personas atendiendo la tecnología, los asistentes e intérpretes y todo el personal de coordinación han sido valiosos y maravillosos para el éxito de

I had really looked forward to this. At this point I am not sure how to process the experience or take it back to the small rural churches where I often fill in because NONE of them have regular pastoral leadership. The issues we discussed are not the ones usually on their radar. A couple of positives--the spirit and fairness of the Co-Moderators, the worship, the Hands and Feet initiative. The frank discussion about the need to merge the OGA

I overall enjoyed my time at the assembly. I hope my comments are useful and helpful for future events. I appreciated being at the General Assembly. I feel this work is very important and I was grateful to be part of it. I know that the denominational staff worked very hard and we are all indebted to their work. Personally, I hope that we will return to solely in-person General Assemblies as soon as possible and that face masks will be

I enjoyed the experience. Location, and setting, and facilities were excellent

Now that PCUSA is exclusively "liberal", as the Stated Clerk said, you have effectively excluded the local

See 44. Equip the commissioners for their return home.

PC Biz still felt new and no one knew how to properly work it

The moderators did an outstanding job and the back room folks cannot be beaten! Julia Henderson and her crew kept us on track and kept up with all the motions and changes very well. PC-Biz is a great program and We did good work. YAADs (and TSADs for that matter) need more than voice at plenary. We need to balance efficiency and voices better. We might try soliciting discussion from those who haven't spoken. Better communication with the mods so they have a better idea of who's in the queue and what's coming. Having a

Enjoyed

One more shout out to Shavon and Ruth!!

The organizing staff for GA 225 did a spectacular job. Things were well thought out and organized. I felt the love in every event and please, please know that while comments were given in this survey, I give GA 225 an A+. Thank you for a wonderful experience and for making me feel an intricate part of God's work in our world. To God be the Glory....in the name of Jesus! Peace and Blessing! I will keep our work in the name of Jesus, lifted

** Will Committee Moderators/Leadership team participants be receiving a separate evaluation? I'd think this group would have some interesting insights since they were a bit more involved. Heartfelt thanks and praise to everyone who helped make this GA possible. The staff support was UNBELIEVABLE! Working at the Presbyterian Center must be a dream job because everyone seems to be so nice, competent, respectful and positive!!!!

The opening and Juneteenth worship, esp music, were out of this world. ALL of the sermons were moving, motivating, convicting and inspiring. I am very proud to be a Presbyterian and grateful for the GA 225

I thought the meetings went very well. BIPOC spaces were well utilized and should definitely be encouraged for the 226th GA. It would be good to have regular progress reports on how recommendations are being implemented. Additionally, it might be informative to poll participants to find out if they are seeing any

I enjoyed my first GA. I did not know what to expect but I learned a lot and met great followers of Christ. I believe I have mentioned everything in other places in this survey. Thank you to everyone involved in any way for making my first exposure to GA a good one. I was surprised at the committee assignment I received, as I really didn't feel I had a lot to contribute. I did, however, learn a lot about how these overtures applied to many

I truly enjoyed all of the participation of Rev. Dr. T. Herbert Nelson. His sermon at Juneteenth, his pep talk before each meeting, his prayers and the attention he gave commissioners by spending time in conversation and not giving the impression that he was doing this out of duty can not be measured. The tech people at my committee meeting worked unceasingly (giving me especially, a non-tech person) to ensure that we got all the attention and help that we needed. The moderator and co-moderator of my committee were excellent in conducting very effect sessions with the right amount of leadership, humor and setting for fellowship in our group to soar. The

Thank you for the opportunity to understand, contribute, and connect with the "mother" church. It was a worthwhile endeavor for me, and I encourage others to participate!

I am thankful for the experience. I feel more connected to the PCUSA.

Overall, my experience was exhausting and exhilarating. My frustrations were only a small factor. God's blessings were upon us and I was super grateful for the high caliber of staff, including tech help for me and my committee. It was well thought out and you all were accessible as needed. Thank you all for your work.

I have nothing to say but to Prais and be proud to be a presbyterian. God blesses us all

I was surprised at how sad I was when we were finished on Saturday. I wish I would have been better prepared for a decompression time afterwards. I was grateful for the availability of chaplains during the committee meetings and General Assembly. I know one of the chaplains before GA, so I might be prejudiced, because I got special care and check-ins from them. Now that I am pondering it, instruction or help on reporting back to our home presbytery would be helpful. I know that we are still in a pandemic. A side note, I miss the Big Tent events. For me it was a way to meet and connect with others from the larger denomination. I made more. My husband who could hear parts of the Zoom from another part of the house came out saying "I'm so proud of our church. We have so many smart people handling big issues with respect and care." I think focusing on that aspect even more than the vote outcomes could go a long way toward educating members about GA. For me, I see above

I want to thank our co-moderators for their spiritual leadership. Shavon and Ruth seemed to know just when we needed prayer, just when we needed encouragement and just when we needed levity. I am also so impressed with Trish our parliamentarian. She is a rock star. As a first time commissioner my eyes were opened at how Glad I served, though it was draining at time. I did not attend the Hands and Feet, because there were several items of business I needed to attend to. My work allowed me take time off, but a volunteer position I have with one of our partners in ministry needed some attention and it lasted into the special program time. That is the If given the choice between participating again, and being poked in the ear with a sharp stick, I'll choose the stick. I am happy I attended. I believe that we discerned a path forward for the church that reflects God's will in a changing more diverse world. I pray that this is a trend to last.

Thanks to a phenomenal tech team, the hybrid format was hugely successful!

The tech support and resource staff were phenomenal. I felt welcomed and supported. I hope I am able to serve. One of the most impressive features of the GA was the use of knowledgeable resources. So often in committee meetings there are questions that can't be answered and may be put aside. In both committee meetings and plenary sessions resource coordinators had an expert in the room or on Zoom within minutes of a request for information. The information was timely, to the point and moved the meeting along smoothly. GA staff was. It was hard for Bills and Overtures to observe online. I watched in the fourth group and you don't get as good of a sense of the room and the feel for things online.

I was most delighted by meeting people who challenged my own stereotypes, who enlarged and enlivened my theology and who I genuinely connected with. Our geographic diversity is so wonderful and assemblies are one of the few places we have everyone. I hope we retain this, but include many ways (without in person committees) to keep that going. When I have been in person previously, and in presbytery, I often feel left out. Jesus came in the flesh.

I noticed that many of the same people were called upon during the plenary. I know that it was hard for the moderators to keep track of who was requesting time to speak, but there should be a better way to track that. We kept hearing from the same few commissioners and the same few advisory delegates. I thought this hybrid model worked well. I know it wasn't anyone's first choice, but given the limitations of the platform, it worked. The tech people should be applauded. I am biased, I do IT work for a profession. But the fact that there was enough bandwidth in the conference rooms as well as sufficient power options speaks well of the planning that went into the tech preparation. It would have been nice to be able to purchase some souvenirs (PCUSA swag). Mugs, t-shirts, various items like these would have been nice. I visited GA 220 in Pittsburgh years ago and saw

The co-moderators for the 225 General Assembly did an exemplary job. They led the Assembly Pastorally, allowing time for prayer and moments of reflection. I was also very inspired by the messages presented by Rev. J Herbert Nelson at the beginning of each plenary. I was disappointed that certain commissioners were allowed more than enough speaking time, and we did not hear from many POC on certain items. A suggestion for future assemblies would be to ask if any POC would like to comment for/against a motion before moving to give permission to voices who continually ask for recognition. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to serve the IN my opinion, the GA-225 hybrid concept was successful.

It was clear that there is deep concern for the small churches that make up 60% of our churches. It was clear that we have several churches with debt. It was abundantly clear that the OGA can no longer afford to maintain itself based on the 80% of its funding coming from per capita - but to begin using monies intended for PMA our mission agency to make up the deficit, I can only tell you that it simply causes people to be less inclined to give to mission. Once again the use of technology, (which for me was expensive with no funding to help) and the lack of ability on the co-moderators part to fully understand how to moderate, getting lost, forgetting what had

A big shoutout to everyone who made it happen. This was really hard, and it would have been easier to kick the can down the road. At the end of the day, I am guessing the final decisions on the IOBs would have been the same if we had met in person. Also, my committee (MOV) was incredible. Truly a gift. We couldn't have done what we did online, so I have a bit of trepidation for committees in GA226. If there is any way to do plenary differently, please try it. As I said above, it really does bring out the worst in us. I am thinking Calvin had a Presbyterian General Assembly in mind when he developed the doctrine of depravity! At the same time, I am really glad I dipped my toe back into the national church. It helped me heal some old wounds, and it helped me I'm not a city person and found getting meals during our time in Louisville to be challenging. I got in 10 minutes after the PCUSA registration room closed and so had no information of where I could grab a late dinner or wear to get breakfast (nor the credit card for either of these). I did without the first and only found the grab 'n' go for the second. I'm also not comfortable walking around a city (or getting a taxi or rideshare) to go out to eat by myself. The by myself part was also disappointing. I wish more could have been done to organize at least

In spite of limitations and constraints imposed by the hybrid nature of the gathering, I thought GA225 was very well done. Consider Zoom Events as an upgraded experience for virtual gatherings. Provide online giving information to support mission. Explain better the request for two devices -- for the most part, with some guidance, only one was really needed. Explain better the difference between raising your hand in Zoom and Requesting Recognition in PC-BIZ. Be clear about the etiquette of having video on during sessions. Can a

We chose great Co-Moderators. Also, the worship services were all wonderful. They are usually my favorite part I was confused on the final day of Plenary related to the discussion and vote on selecting Omega as the 2024 GA format with the strong statements made by the YAAD's in their disappointment & disagreement with the decision. Feeling they had been ignored or had no reason/voice in the GA was surprising, especially coming from the YAAD who was their overall guide for the experience. I myself did, & I heard continuously how much we valued their input, acknowledged their voice, watched to see their votes. They are an important voice & involvement in the future of PCUSA, but generally were 30 participating/voting during Plenary with 380+ commissioners voting. It appeared that the response to them was more of an appeasement & appeal not to 'leave the church... we need you...' rather than helping them deal with their disappointment that things didn't go their way & moving on. 2024 GA costs money, YAAD age-groups don't foot much of that bill in their financial support, weren't grasping that component of the decision very well, discounted the Committees rationale in deciding, & I don't feel you're doing them or the rest of us a great service by catering to what came off as a

It felt as though discussion on issues was dictated by the leanings of the leaders and staff and some voices were I thank everyone who made this possible. While I did find it to be frustrating at times, so is the case with anything that is new, I am thankful for all the work put into it. It was an impossible task to try to build the plane while flying it but I give credit to everyone who did, indeed, make it possible. I'm excited for where the Spirit is leading us and hopeful the next layout for the 226th GA will be fruitful, and, hopefully, less frustrating for

After having attended I feel so humbled in gaining a deep personal feeling of what it means to be brothers and sister in Christ, the feeling of how strong the use of the word "friend" can feel when discussing important topics, seeing individuals one generally only sees a photo of or video up front and in person, feeling with confidence that our young people will carry on when we are called home or cannot travel to carry on this ministry of the Church. Finally, actually seeing our faith so strong that one can truly see how all of us working together, help NA

I deeply appreciate all who worked to make the online meeting possible. Blessings!

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in committee, but know that it was a difficult time for many theological delegates. While my committee was welcoming and accepting, I know there were some commissioners who didn't take our comments seriously in other committees. I would love if there was more of a conversation that could be had about what the roles of each person are within the scope of the General Assembly and that we would all feel The people that made it happen are ROCK STARS !!! Praise Be To God !!!

My experience was very rewarding for me. I could feel the Holy Spirit working in every aspect of GA.

I am so grateful and honored to have been a part of GA this year. I LOVED being in my committee meetings, spending time with commissioners and YAADS, and doing this work for the church. I am thankful for the dedicated work of EVERYONE, especially the technical crew. I hope to be back to GA soon, and I am proud of the I found General Assembly to be absolutely spectacular. It truly was a life-long dream that came true. It was inspirational to meet such dedicated servants for The LORD. It was magnificent to be able to participate in this event. I pray to remember these days always. God Bless You All - for the tedious hours of preparation for this I felt like I was a part of something much bigger than myself! God is good!

I really think that everyone did an excellent job. The service level, hospitality, grace and quality of every aspect was just really wonderful and I am grateful. It is very clear that a lot of careful and caring thought went into this meeting. There are some really wonderful things that could be done coming out of this Assembly to disseminate information in Presbyteries and congregations, and also to support congregations. I hope that intentional

I was tired and ready to go home at the end of the committee sessions, and a couple of the plenaries started early for those on the west coast, but I came away with an uplifted spirit and a very strong sense of community.

My brain is trained to think brothers and sisters in Christ, but I will learn to use the word siblings. There is so I would be interested to see what the overall denomination membership thinks about the range of issues we took up and voted on. There were many issues of church polity and governance, but we covered dozens of hot button policy topics. What had been one social issues committee is now several committees. There were four separate overturns on Palestine and Israel alone. Is this really what the body of the church thinks GA is about? Does the GA representation really reflect the views of the membership of the church? I don't significantly

There are THOUSANDS of pages of documentation to read. While the PC-Biz site worked well enough, it was NOT intuitive and there was not nearly enough training on it. I had to ask the help desk to find daily agendas. The voting panel, could be exploited, and seemingly was, and the same people kept getting recognized. The vast majority of people never sought recognition and thus were not heard from. With a lack of infrastructure and equity I wonder how many people found the tech to be a barrier to participation? I recognize that hybrid is here to stay and I also recognize that the remote participation does allow some doors to open for delegates and I'm glad that committees were in Louisville because it was a great place to get to know.

I am proud to have been a part of this important work.

Invaluable experience I would recommend to church members. Loved getting to hear from the YAADS, the missionaries, the folks who speak another language, how so many of our churches have the same problems, yet the same worship experiences. I made some great friends. The leadership was outstanding, loved actually meeting J Herbert Nelson in person. The tech crew also did an outstanding job, very thankful for their expertise.

I think our committee work would have benefitted from either more time or pre-GA conversations about the issues. In the interests of not holding up the process, some fine-tuning of motions couldn't happen.

As an ecumenical advisory delegate and on behalf of my church, we are so grateful for PCUSA's invitation. It was an honor and privilege to be part of the 225th General Assembly. The time together helped me understand

Great job!!

I felt that we accomplished important work during the assembly. As a first-time participant I felt overwhelmed. The presentations by resource persons were extremely helpful. The worship sessions were great. I enjoyed the My only big concern was that I felt that Plenary often went too fast for a lagging computer system. Often times impatient people called for the vote before everyone had time to speak. Motions and amendments weren't always recognized. It was confusing and upsetting to see things move so quickly (e.g. DV should be "encouraged" vs "requires" but after hearing from advisory the original person wasn't allowed to make an amendment to the amendment. Instead the next person moved to infiltrate the NRA and many of us tried to amend the language but weren't recognized. Then someone called the question and we did that. A simple wording change was all the Thank you to all who put on the GA-225. Very well done. Glad to have participated!

I hope the concerns raised by many are not brushed aside as if to say, "well, that's just a product of the hybrid model." Truly, congratulations on the planning teams who put this plan together during a period of great uncertainty. I was largely unaware of the great tensions present in the denomination- or I had heard of them and thought "it can't be that bad." I am not discouraged- it takes a lot to discourage me- but I do notice a I wonder how our councils, at every level of the church, can be healthier models of the presbyterian form of government and less the worst of our country politics. There seemed to be the need by some who are more focused on the "win" than on learning to process so the whole body can discern. I know, at the church I pastor, and the work I do with Presbytery, I focus a lot on systems thinking, self-differentiation, polarities and learning not to triangulate. The process and the discipline is as important, if not more so, as the end product, empowering us to maintain a healthy and productive outcome. As well, I wondered if there are ways in which long-term commissions and committees might be able to work together a little more beforehand to fine tune things instead of coming in as two exclusive perspectives and then triangulating the committee in the middle. With our technology and ability to Zoom, it would seem that certain procedural and constitutional things could be

The production crew are superhero's and deserve a raise

I experienced marked improvements between the 224th and 225th GA. You folks have done an amazing job of learning and planning on a very steep learning curve! Thank you for doing 110% to make both these GAs the best The moderators were SPECTACULAR, the tech support and execution of events was PHENOMENAL and everyone who worked behind the scenes should receive amazing awards and vacation points!!! I really thing for the most part the zoom organization was very well done - one comment would be spotlighting speakers, as it often lingered on past speakers rather than switching to who was speaking. I think everyone did a great job executing this given the constraints and needs of the entire operation. I realize there are realities to this process that are This was my first GA and I thought that all things considered, it went well. I was proud to see us masking and practicing care and concern for one another. We had to pivot and try things that we have not tried before and it went well. There's always room for improvement but there is also room to be gracious with one another and I think that we did a good job of being the church and listening to one another and loving on each other. Our Co-Moderators did an excellent job of bringing joy to the plenaries and they held space for the committee moderators to do the same. I think that we did good work in spite of the limits of the pandemic and we should I appreciated the Worship Services. I enjoyed hearing different voices in song, as liturgist, and in the sermon. I appreciated the use of the art work in the bulletin, worship, and the Sacred Pauses.

I must commend both Ruth and Shavon for being absolutely wonderful co moderators.

Again -- what a blessing to be able to be in person at least part of the time and meet with others live. Online interaction is just too limiting. The more we can aim towards a full in-person General Assembly the more chance we have to gain wider perspectives and discern the Spirit together. It was nice to be able to see the "headquarters" but we could accommodate everyone at a convention center or convention hotel and streamline things. The added expense would be worth it in the payoff of greater understanding, greater unity, stronger

Perhaps this is normal at GA but my patience was tested when the same individual had to speak repeatedly with amendments that were voted down. And then there were those who appeared to just want to be seen on Zoom. Sometimes questions were asked that had nothing to do with the motion on the floor which wasted valuable time. While I'm appreciative of the amount of work that went into creating session sync, some of the features, like submitting a motion to amend, were too time intensive to use before moderators moved on.

I appreciated the opportunity to serve during GA 226. Obviously, it was different from what I signed up for several years ago. Still, I believe the OGA did a good job keeping all safe and devising a format that enabled the mandated work of GA to be done. I would like to share my perspective as a fairly progressive, white male. At times, it seemed that leadership made such an effort to be inclusive, particularly in worship, that the presence and voices of those deemed privileged were intentionally left out. My understanding is that some of this was due to planners' use of the theme from GA 224 "from Lament to Hope" and the desire to acknowledge the needs and value of vulnerable groups that have suffered most in the pandemics of COVID and racism. I believe promoting equity and unity that reflects the diverse scope of God's creation and love has great importance. However, it seems (of late) that we often exert so much of our energy toward inclusivity and social justice that some areas and people are neglected. I understand the call for and desire of many to be at the forefront in calling for justice. I really enjoyed this year's format.

I am amazed at the planning that OGA did to make this all happen. Our Leadership Team was outstanding. Our committee had adequate time to complete our work. The number of breaks built into our daily schedule was good, however thirty minutes for lunch was not adequate. At least forty-five minutes would be better or an hour. I didn't notice any commissioners who were overwhelmed by the work they had come to do. I was also a commissioner in 2016 in Portland. I felt less stress at this assembly, perhaps because it was easier to get to the Center each morning. I rode the shuttle bus morning and evening and appreciated this service very much. I am grateful that, even though being Honorably Retired as Minister of Word and Sacrament, I was elected as a Commissioner from my presbytery. (I did ask whether I was eligible, being retired, before putting my name forward.) Although I had NO IDEA of how much technical devices would be embedded in pre-GA preparation, in the committee meetings, and in the plenaries, I might still serve, but I wish that we had been told more of the role of these technical devices earlier on. I think that dependence on technical devices, while definitely more needed in the future, might deter some would-be commissioners. The size of my committee, at about 36, could have been managed without such devices. To summarize--communicate, communicate, communicate. Isn't that always the bottom line. So much more could have been communicated so much sooner. Even as I say, I am extremely appreciative of the enormous amount of organization that was involved in implementing 225thGA. Organizing travel for hundreds, making it as smooth as possible, providing technical assistance in advance of in-Thank you for providing an environment for an excellent committee meeting.

Preferred committee meetings to plenaries.

I absolutely loved every minute of this experience. And, there were a lot of minutes. I hope that I get to be more involved in the next two years and that I get to attend the next assembly. The whole process fascinated me and I look forward to knowing more and getting my church and our Presbytery more involved as well. Thank you for I appreciate all the labor and preparation that went into GA225. It was an extraordinary challenge to stagger committee work in person and quickly convene online right after. I hope GA226 will be less technically challenging, but I suspect it will still be new for many folks. Also, we need to be real about white dominant values that lead to white over-representation in being heard in plenary as well as commission work. Moderators Overall a positive and encouraging experience. Well prepared moderators and patient atmosphere for the challenges inherent in a gathering of this sort. Remember that inclusiveness should not create divisions. Assume there are representatives that are at all points on the political spectrum. Overture authors are not necessarily undisputed experts in the topic at hand. They, and committee members, are capable of presenting Overall it was a good experience, and I appreciate the great amount of work that all the staff put in to make it

I have been a Presbyterian since preschool. My grandmother was one of the first women ordained as an elder in her Presbytery in KY and served for decades as a lay pastor in her Presbytery in PA. As a queer Presbyterian I've been watching GA intently for the past 15 years or so. When I started seminary in 2008 I couldn't be ordained as a pastor in our denomination. I watched so many painful discussions on the floor of GA as my personhood was debated and my belovedness voted against. I also got to watch the plenary when that changed and the assembly voted to make a way for queer pastors to be ordained. I've been serving a small church as a solo pastor for the past six years, and it is one of the deep joys of my life. I loved the chance to serve the church as a GA member. There is no perfect way. I know this. We will continue to perfect as we walk this path.....

A lot of extra work to do this GA in a totally different manner. It was noticed and greatly appreciated. Well I think our moderators did an awesome job. I also think the GA committee did a great job with all the technical and other logistics they had to deal with. I was not given good directions to the Presbyterian Center. No address. One source said easy walking distance. Another person had told me 1/2 mile. Another said 6 blocks and yet another said 3! The concierge did not know where it was and gave me wrong directions. I was lost. My committee resource person was very, "Oh ask someone. There are Presbyterians everywhere." Not at 7 a.m. My flight had arrived late, at midnight. No registration, no information, I didn't know where the shuttle was or where to get breakfast. Ergo I walked and got lost. The day I left I found a lost soul in the elevator who had just arrived late the night before. [Of course, it was not 7 a.m.] I explained where breakfast could be had, where the shuttle was, and where to get breakfast. THANK YOU. The staff are wonderful and as a whole you put on an amazing hybrid event. I was impressed with everyone I met. The technology and hosting crews were fantastic. I am only sorry I didn't learn about trick or treating to the offices at lunch for swag until I was headed back to the hotel the last time. Oh well, next time!

While we were in Louisville, it would have been wonderful to have been able to learn more about the work that goes on at the Presbyterian national headquarters instead of basically staying in our committee room the entire time. That was a missed opportunity to show how our connectional church works together.

Overall I had a good experience. The meal breaks were at odd times, but I understood the need for accommodating those who were in different time zones. The tech staff was amazing not just in managing the plenaries but also in the committee meeting. They came in to give one-on-one coaching to a few in our meeting who were struggling with technology. I felt welcomed in Louisville by the volunteers at the airport. The Presbyterian Center was nice. Some official "welcomers" there would have been nice. Healthier snacks would have been nice. OGA staff was great-super nice and helpful. They seemed to go out of their way to try and make everyone feel comfortable. I really appreciate the cleaning staff who found my purse and turned it into security. Perhaps monitor social media and jump in when Presbyterians are mocking delegates who happen to be white males or from a rural area. It was ugly to see how it is apparently acceptable to be derisive of certain groups based on race or geography.

Thank you :)

Even with the flaws imposed by the Covid protocols, it was a great assembly. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The staff persons and tech support persons supporting the activities were great and deserve a loud thank you. I am very grateful for the preparation done for this meeting. For the care and concern of everyone involved. I did miss the social interactions and the exhibition hall. I could see on the list of commissioners several folks I have not seen in some time. However, their committee meeting was not the same week as mine and there was no time to meet. For me, the PCUSA and GA225 is engaged way too much in politics. Therefore in this divided country, the PCUSA only appeals to 1/2 of the country, limiting membership.

PC-Biz is BRILLIANT! I don't know what you paid for it, but it is a worthy system. I downloaded all my committee's IOBs and info docs ahead of time, then downloaded final versions of other key issues after the plenaries. I was able to switch in and out of Session Synchron as I needed to or go in and look at a related document. It's a very impressive system. Our two co-moderators are the right leaders for the job. They did a good job of moderating. OGA and PMA staff are outstanding. Meeting fellow presbyterians from around the country (and the globe!) was wonderful. I was inspired and humbled to participate.

Several thoughts on PC-Biz: Show the tree of actions e.g. main motion, amend motion, amend amendment. For the consent agenda filter. include not on consent agenda, and removed from consent agenda. Provide way to Committee meetings were well-planned and well-executed. Committees accomplished their work (most ahead of schedule!) AND also built relationships and trust among committee members. Committees had much higher participation among YAADs (and I suspect EADs) than plenaries. Translation and tech support services were available to each committee, so we were very well resourced. The in-person committee times took reasonable COVID precautions which allowed people to gather but minimized risk, with the result being that although there were individual cases, there was minimal (no?) spread among committee participants. Much thought was put in place which allowed all this to happen. After having a highly positive experience during my committee time, I want to thank ALL the hard-working people who made this GA a reality. Each person is truly appreciated!! Special shoutout to the YAAD Advisors, who ensured we all were cared for mentally and spiritually during GA. I'm proud of the work we did. Some of it was very hard and very needed. We've taken chances, reached beyond comfort levels. That's how we change and grow.

You should block off rooms and make arrangements for commissioners from 224 and 225 who wish to present in SLC to be able to attend. You should invite them and give them a special alum credential. The 224 and 225 commissioners deserve to be recognized and appreciated. These past two years have been a tough time to stay out of political arena.

It was a very smoothly run event and I would be happy to serve in the future.

Staff was great!!!! Josh Park, Teresa Waggener, Kyna Herzinger - fabulous!!

Though I appreciate the effort to provide snacks during the breaks, it was carb heavy (cookies, donuts) which leaves out the diabetics. Since we were in area of no grocery stores, there was no opportunity for me to pack my Nothing

Wonderful members of the OGA who assisted

Y'all did a great job given the hand you had been dealt. Yes, it was exceptionally long in the calendar; I hope we can focus that more in 2024. But given the amount of unknowns in the planning, I think you all should be

Gracias por la oportunidad Que este proceso de evaluación pueda escuchar las voces desde el participante Que no sea un mero ejercicio de cumplimento

I was sad that the Assembly did not acknowledge that there still is some theological diversity within the denomination. As a theologically moderate PCUSA pastor, I lead a purple congregation and I have already had four members of my congregation resign as a result of the tone of General Assembly. I stand behind most of the decisions we made as an Assembly, but I wish that we had acknowledged the variety of opinions that still reside in the Presbyterian Church (USA). I believe that we are stronger and have a more relevant witness in the world when we can acknowledge that Christians of good conscience can disagree. So often the body responded to

43.3 cont. I was starting a conversation with a young woman from the Dakota Presbytery and a young man from (I think) Nigeria. And then this guy stepped up to the table, interrupting to say "Four minutes. Four minutes."

He even held up four fingers. I felt like I was in middle school. Came very close to saying something to him but was too astonished for he rushed off to admonish others at another table. More moderation from moderators?

44. The lecture about "micro aggressions" that the Race and Gender Justice committee received the morning of its last day--in "executive session" no less--was appallingly inappropriate, undeserved, and heedless of the

Help pastors in the local churches. Focus on growing churches, growing disciples, evangelism and actually making it healthier for local churches. The entire assembly was focused on so many social justice issues that will impact the growth of the church and make local pastors have a tougher time. The shrinking church and shrinking funds will again be impacted by the agenda of the few at the cost of the local churches. We want to grow and not have

Thank you

Just remember that in the grand scheme of things, our institutions are secondary to the larger work of the body I was humbled to be a part of the Assembly and one of the first in this new hybrid Assembly. I understand COVID, and I would like to be a part of an in-person Assembly.

I disliked the worship set-up with some in the chapel and some in the conference space. We should have gathered in one of the local churches for our worship services so that we would all have been together. This

The YAAD advisors were awesome!

The history presentation from Charles was very good. Not everyone is aware of that kind of thing. The introduction from J. Herbert Nelson made it easier to understand the changes that have been made during the past few years and where the denomination is going now. Both of the presentations were well worth the time!

Thank you...for everything you did to launch this hybrid experience, for bathing us in prayer every moment along the way, for honoring Christ by insisting on mutual respect and love for one another, for asking for feedback to make things brighter for our future, for modeling patience and humble leadership to each and every one of us,

The 225th GA will be seen as is a pivot point in the history of the PCUSA, especially as we begin to merge the PMA and the OGA. I noticed that the 225th GA relied overwhelmingly on People of Colour and Diversity in positions of leadership and participation in proportions greater than their actual membership in the wider church. This is necessary and praiseworthy, and should be continued. I did sense a real tension among the highest levels of church leadership that this merger of the two entities could reduce this diversity, and can understand the reasonableness of this fear which threatens to mirror what happened in US politics after reconstruction, where minority voices were suddenly given power then as suddenly silenced. I think we need to insure that this DOES NOT HAPPEN in the PCUSA...even as the PMA and the OGA are being re-imagined. I sensed a different kind of power in this assembly, (I've attended 14 to date) in its leadership and in its approach to problem solving and even the kind of problems it chose to solve. I DO think that there needs to be a balance between political correctness and the everyday lives and understandings/sensibilities of local churches. As so

Muchas gracias por diseÑar un proyecto de Asamblea tan completo. He participado en tres y esta ha sido la mejor. Felicito a los equipos de trabajo, demostraron una gran disposici3n y profesionalismo. ¿Que el Se±or

I think the GA was well organized and the best was done under the difficult circumstances of Covid. I do feel that there was some stifling of debate in the plenary sessions, I am not blaming the moderators for this but feel that, again, the energy of the room is missing in the online format and so voices are not heard. As the next GA will have online committees, I think there needs to be at least one day for the committees to meet in person,

Honestly a lot of great ideas and resolutions got passed. I'll be curious to see what happens now. I would like to

Once again, I was very honored to be elected by my presbytery (number three) to be the TEC. I was blessed by having an understanding church that supported me and allowed me the time needed to serve the larger church in this capacity. I find it utterly fascinating (albeit a teeny bit frustrating since session, presbytery, and synod meetings are not quite so Robert's Rules bound!) to see and be a part of the work of the denomination at this level. Each time I have been, once to observe and three times as TEC, it's been hard, long, grueling, and yet deeply rewarding to be a part of this church in such a way. It's both intimate and overwhelming, humbling and

None

N/A

In addition to the work being done, I think that being able to make connections with people from other areas of the country is very important. In addition, while the church is trying hard to recognize and rectify damage done by previous discrimination to minorities, I think it is important to recognize inclusiveness to everyone. There were a few times where certain people were feeling like they had to apologize for the fact that they were not in a minority group. In no way do I feel that any past transgressions should be ignored, but I also feel that effort

Quiero reconocer el rol de las tres hermanas moderadoras de mi comit© de migraci3n especialmente la

I am so grateful for all the staff who made possible this GA. There were so many plates spinning and they

The Spirit was evident and the work was accomplished despite the limitations.

I always come away from participation in GA uplifted and inspired.

Very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church in this way. Makes me wonder about doing some kind of greater service and pray I will be shown what that is.

Thank you for a well planned and led Assembly - a challenge in these days,

SessionSync could get frustrating, because commissioners could see many pending questions but not know if they were pertinent, duplicates, or being ignored. Clearing SessionSync more often might help. I was amazed how easy it was to call up pertinent overtures and motions - thank you for the hard work that went into making I truly enjoyed my time in Louisville (and after). I feel so blessed to have been a part of it and would love the Great job !!!

Good work! Keep your chin up and reach for the stars!

This was my first General Assembly. I enjoyed learning about the top level of the PCUSA. I learned that a lot of thought, discussions, and prayers go into changing our documents and decision making.

The Co-Moderators were very calm and outstanding leaders, especially for the hot button issues. The National staff of the denomination is outstanding. Their supporting roles were performed above the call of duty. The diversity of the worship service participants and their contributions displayed the richness of the PCUSA. All I cannot say enough how amazed and impressed I am with the PCUSA staff. I am so proud that I am a part of such a wonderful denomination. You all did a SUPER FANTASTIC job with the renovations of the Center, and the technology and process worked as well as it possibly could have. I am astounded at the advance work you all put in to figure out a process for doing GA in person and online. Every member of the staff that I encountered was welcoming and made me feel right at home. The only thing that would have made the visit to the Presbyterian

One random thought, brought to me as committee moderator: A commissioner raised a concern to me about the layout of the rooms for committee, with press, observers, and resource people at the back. Apparently someone on Outlook staff was sitting behind her and made a comment to her about her computer screen, making her feel like press and others could see how she was voting. Just wanted to pass that on - perhaps chairs for non-committee members could be moved around to a side or certain area? Other than that, I just want y'all to know you did a GREAT job under crazy and difficult circumstances! And I, for one, really appreciated that we masked while in person. Made me feel much more comfortable coming home to my family, preaching the next It was good to be back in fellowship for committee work but I still missed the benefit of a total in-person GA. Our Presbytery could not find a YAAD due to the amount of time that had to be committed to participate and I think None.

Co-moderators did a great job with what they were working with. It is the system/structure that is lacking, not the individuals. Everyone that I interacted with in OGA and COGA were extremely helpful.

N/A

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the PC(USA) in this way. I learned so much and feel hope for the future of our church. I was especially grateful for the many social justice stands that we approved (especially the apology for the sin of slavery) and for the witness of the YAADS who were awesome and add to my hope for the GA225 has been a very meaningful experience for me and my participation has strengthened my commitment to Thank you for the experience!

General Assembly helped me connect with our denomination as a whole. I so loved and appreciated our work on environmental and social justice issues. My church never mentions such issues, leaving me feeling very Because I was a first-time commissioner, I learned a great deal about the GA. Our Presbytery is small so I will advise another person to participate in two years.

Louisville does not seem to be a very enticing walkable city in the area around the hotel and PC(USA) center. I really appreciate having the Plenary recordings videos available. And I also enjoyed watching the committee meetings on the livestream. I tuned in for many of them, and it really helped me get a sense of what I might expect, since my committee was in group 4. The Travel Agency for making the arrangements was very smooth too. Thank you, they were very helpful! The hotel was fine. It was nice to have a variety of restaurant choices in I heard from others that the experience was better for the 225th GA than the 224th. I hope I can compare the 225th to the 226th to give better feedback but this was my first time at GA. The tech crew were outstanding.

All in all, I had a wonderful experience in Louisville, Kentucky! I am very much looking forward to GA226 in Salt Lake City, as this is where I grew up and I miss the mountains and the area very much! I have many friends I will be spending some time with prior or after the General Assembly while I'm there. I'm hoping everyone has an opportunity to come for the Plenary at the appointed time! I feel it's a shame we couldn't have an all in-person GA. I think spending 7-10 days would be a shorter and better time for accomplishing what needed to be done than the 3 weeks it took for GA225. But I will wait and see what happens on the next GA. Yes, there are You did the very best you could with the circumstances you were dealt. I would love to help anyway I can toward the next Assembly. Let me know what you need and how I can help!

Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make 225 run smoothly. There were hiccups, but I felt you were all working things out throughout the entire event. Thank you to all the visionaries who bravely took this Nathan Young did a spectacular job putting this together. It was inspiring. We need more young voices like his to I was honored to be a of this GA, especially in this time. I would love to be able to represent again and would

1. Fue muy interesante e importante, desde el punto de vista del conocimiento del manejo de los diversos negocios de la Denominaci3n. 2. Excelente organizaci3n y distribuci3n de los asuntos a tratar, por comit3s. I think that the whole experience went well. The Co-Moderators were great spiritual and meetings leaders. The worship services set the tone for the gathering. OGA representatives provided the information that we needed promptly, completely and politely. It was easy to see the hand of the Lord through the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert I was very moved by the work done to be inclusive through language services, etc. I thought the technology and support system were really well done. I'm very grateful for the hard work of the many people who made it all I thought that what we accomplished during 225th GA was important work, and yet we discussed difficult items respectfully. Mine was a delightful experience, even though it was a huge time commitment.

Overall great

Our co-moderators did a great job with a difficult format. My committee (polity) moderators also did a great job but the technology did let them down, again particularly in the early going. Having committee meetings broadcast through ZOOM was well intentioned but the ZOOM lag between my headphone and hearing the voice of the person speaking got very distracting sometimes. The overtures that were discussed by committee could be laid out differently in PC-Biz. Of particular concern was the other comments and further amendments suggested by the task forces. They were buried well below all the other text and separated far from the original Thank God for Tricia Dykers Koenig and the ACC! They were amazing. I appreciate our stated clerk, but during plenaries he seemed to be disengaged most of the time. Whether or not he was, it was distracting. The OGA and PMA staff worked their butts off and I am so thankful! I am hoping they got plenty of compensation time off. Fewer sugary snacks would be great. Fresh fruit and vegetables are probably well worth the expense. Great job Overall, we did the best we could with the time we had.

Job well done! It wasn't easy, and I know there were some glitches, but all in all, I think it went off well! It was great to see and be with people in person!

Thank you to the entire leadership team for your commitment to serve Christ's church faithfully as demonstrated through your dedication to the process and all of the hard work you put in to ensure that It was an honor to serve as a commissioner for my Presbytery and hope to fulfill my responsibilities well. The hotel experience in Louisville was excellent! Thank you for the debit card for food. It went a long way toward expenses. I am proud to be a Presbyterian and though we sometimes word smith to ridiculous lengths, I believe So grateful

I found it very offensive that special groups had hospitality rooms at committee in Louisville and those not apart of that special group were uninvited. That is not inclusive and not what we are about.

I really enjoyed the hybrid feel of this GA. It was nice meeting people from around the country and discovering connections (PCUSA circles are small!) we had but the introvert in me also appreciated being able to participate It was exhausting

After experiencing the assembly from this unique perspective, I am deeply aware of the complexities of the work necessary for it to look well-done. AMAZING TEAM WORK!

As a first-timer, I was struck by the shared concerns among people, particularly in the committee work. We may have had different approaches or end goals, but grace and justice were strong themes that ran through the work. Once we moved into the Plenaries, it was much more difficult for me to sit still and listen attentively. I knew my committee had worked hard to understand and act on overtures and then to have the work questioned and debated all over again by people who needed to be sure they were heard, even though they may not have spent as much time on the issues, was frustrating. That doesn't mean their perspective wasn't valued - just

Great job!

No comments

** "I chose to listen in English, even though it was difficult for me." â€œ This question in the survey is problematic. It makes an assumption about the person using the translation service. Native English speakers also used the translation service. ** I found it creepy that a staff member told commissioners during a training that I appreciated the hotel arrangements and proximity to the center. The food was wonderful and of a great quality. Thank you to the hospitality team for making us all feel welcome and cared for. Thank you for bottle filling stations. Thank you for the thought and care put in to the technology and how to arrange rooms. This was

None

None - thank you for your continued efforts.

It was inspiring and uplifting. I believe the Holy Spirit led us to make bold decisions that will propell us forward. Well done in making space and importance for the church and these issues while respecting the safety of most I enjoyed it, but it was grueling and seemed to require much more time - calendar days - than previous GAs. Will ponder on your question.

I really missed the sense of the whole church gathered for worship and work this year. A giant Zoom meeting is not the same as a room full of people. I did very much appreciate the language interpretation. Not only was it useful, but it reminded me of the breadth and diversity of the church. I think the Omega format is a good compromise that will hopefully accomplish the purposes of the Assembly (including those beyond the business I enjoyed my time as a commissioner. I would have liked time to get to know other commissioners better. It would have been nice to tour the Presbyterian center while we were there.

Do the entire GA in person and add vendors, activities, and maybe workshops for church members and leaders The parking garage needs help. There are not enough directions to get to the lobby at the Galt House. I loved GA in Louisville. It was great utilizing the resources of the OGA. I did miss a John Knox Press bookstore. Worship opportunities were rich even though I did not attend all of them. I also appreciated hearing career stories in sermons. I was impressed with the leadership quality of my committee and the co moderators. Really appreciated their spirit. I really appreciated getting to know the diversity of PCUSA. Even though I was told, "It Overall, it felt like an important and valuable work. I really valued my time in committee, discerning seriously and listening to the overture advocates and the advisory committees. I heard criticism that not as many voices were able to be heard as past assemblies, and it did seem odd when there was no overture advocate at all to speak to us. I greatly appreciated the worship and the beautiful art, the music, and the preaching. I have incredible hope for our new co-moderators, and will prayerfully support them. As a commissioner and leader in my presbytery, I am having a hard time sharing about the highlights of the assembly with more conservative churches (LGBT and reproductive rights), and the publicity of INT-4 (calling Israel an apartheid state) has been very difficult to explain when we get questions think we are anti-Semitic. Other things that seem like big deals have been downplayed: the new confession that will be worked on, presbyteries considering 12 week family leave, etc. The time commitment in virtual was really way more than I think was fair for a volunteer. I saw one The planning and preparation that went into the 225th was well done.

As I reported to my Presbytery I will most likely be processing my experience at GA for some time to come. Most of the churches in our Presbytery are small, rural churches as are many of the churches in PCUSA. Many of the issues addressed at GA are not the issues these congregations face on a daily basis. I appreciate the hard work of the leaders of the Assembly and do not question that all are well intentioned. I felt we might at times be on the brink of breakthroughs into new understandings. We discussed gun violence but we did not discuss the Church's role in bringing people from violence to faith, from sin to health. We discussed fear that women may lose access to health care but not that God said, "I knew you in the womb" and that Mary chose to have baby Jesus under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. How can the Church assist women? I do have Hope that with God's grace I was very impressed by the level and quality of participation of the Youth Delegates! They were amazing!

I'm done!

I thank God for our denomination and all the work we are doing by facing challenging issues. There were frustrating moments, but even in those moments, I felt God working in us through our accomplishments and failures. I walked away with encouragement and a desire to serve on OGA committees.

It was invigorating experience!! Thank you.

n/a

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All things considered, 225 was a good experience for me. I am still recovering from hours of zoom meetings. That was brutal. The moderators and production team did an excellent job. As did the tired staff after a full month of GA in action and many months preparation. Key Takeaways: Training for commissioners is a long process, but important. Anything to help keep the purpose for the task at hand, and a realistic assessment of impact. GA commissioners need a deeper understanding of what the GA can realistically change/affect vs advise about. Keep

Thank you!!!!

Overall, it was a lot of work, but I enjoyed the work very much. I also enjoyed learning about how things work. It is still possible for a couple of people to hold the GA "hostage" because of the way we do business. There were long debates that ended in overwhelming votes that kinda seemed pointless and took time away from other I appreciate the attention to representation and efforts to enable all people to have equal aspect and respect. The task of General Assembly is, in many ways, impossible. And yet.. in spite of all that is falls short of accomplishing... the work, by God's Grace (and many many hours from exceptional people giving this process their time and energy, imagination and love), is done and it approximates quite well what could be accomplished if you doubled the time and fixed all the things I (in my hubris) think is wrong with it. Thanks be to God - and all Thank you to the staff of GA, I appreciate the hospitality and feel that we truly are one big family.

This was an amazing experience altogether! As this was my first time, I would love the opportunity to attend It was hard to pick what was most meaningful. I chose "committee work," but could have answered with several others. The in-person worship service on Juneteenth was one I'll always remember as was the worship led by Rev. Bentley. Philipp Morgan is an incredible musician and I was blessed by his gift of music. I made many new friends and my love for the Presbyterian Church has grown even deeper. Thank you to everyone who put it all together. It was so well done. Thanks to the tech people - you are amazing! And to the resource people - their

Thank you, but I have none at this time. I enjoyed being a commissioner and would do it again.

Once again, I do thank you all for what was done. I am proud of my PCUSA.

I was pleased with accommodations, shuttle, meeting space, fantastic tech support, comfortable meeting space and overall good experience. The final plenaries were a little long, but I'm not sure that can be avoided.

The GA staff is to be applauded and commended for the great job they did in developing and executing the plans for the 225th GA. Job well done! Thank you for making this a memorable, learning and growing experience for

Agradecer la invitaci3n para ser parte del comit3, ha sido una gran experiencia que me ha enriquecido

Need time for group prayer with multiple participants

I was both exhilarated and crushed during my time serving. I'm very disappointed that my first GA experience was this one (sort of in person committees with online plenaries). I hope wise folks are chosen for the committee to revise the manual of operations for future GAs (or whatever the document is) don't want to close this window and lose everything!) I love this church. We can do better. We can be better. I also feel like someone should have had the foresight to move to answer the apartheid overture with the two other overtures