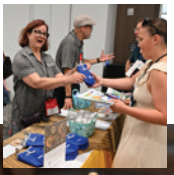
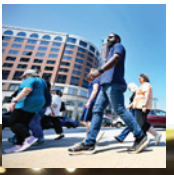
227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2026)

IN BRIEF





GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

GA 227

MILWAUKEE 2026

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Reflections from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Photo by Jim Deweese

The Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness.

The 227th General Assembly gathered in Milwaukee under the theme "Persevering Toward Wholeness." That theme did not sit apart from the work. It moved through it. Commissioners and advisory delegates worshiped, deliberated, listened, debated, prayed, discerned, voted, wrestled with difficult questions, elected new Moderators, and acted on matters that will shape the church's life and witness in the years ahead.

I am grateful for all who participated in the Assembly: commissioners and advisory delegates, resource people, volunteers, interpreters, worship leaders, committee leaders, corresponding members, ecumenical partners, mid council leaders and all who supported the church's discernment through our highest council.

These pages offer one way to begin receiving the Assembly's work with prayer and attention. They are not the whole story, and they are not the end of the work. The actions of the Assembly now move into the hands of mid councils, congregations, committees, agencies, and partners, where they will be interpreted, implemented and lived into.

In the actions gathered here, readers will see the work of a connectional church. General Assembly actions do not bind every member, congregation, or mid council in the same way, but they do invite us into shared discernment and common work. They ask us to listen again for what the Spirit is saying, to receive one another with care, and to take up our part in persevering toward God's wholeness in the church and in the world.

May these pages help us remember what was decided, notice where the Spirit was stirring, and carry this work into our shared life and witness to Christ Jesus among us and in the world.

With gratitude for our covenant community and our life and witness together,

Rev. Jihyun Oh
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness

Greetings from the Moderators of the 227th General Assembly

Grace and peace to you.

We give thanks for the trust placed in us by the 227th General Assembly. We are also grateful for the commissioners, advisory delegates, staff, volunteers, interpreters, worship leaders, committee leaders and hosts who helped make the gathering in Milwaukee possible, and for all who prayed with and for the Assembly.

Photo by Rich Copley

The Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer celebrate after their election as Moderators of the 227th General Assembly.

We saw a church worshiping, listening, debating, grieving, hoping and seeking the Spirit together throughout the Assembly. We heard deep questions about who we are, how we care for one another and how the PC(USA) is called to show up in the world.

The theme "Persevering Toward Wholeness" met us again and again in the work of the Assembly. So did the image from Revelation 22: the leaves of the tree for the healing of the nations. That image has shaped our call, and it continues to offer a word to the whole church.

As you read these pages, may they help you remember what was decided and hear again what we are being invited to become together, a church that listens deeply, walks with courage, and offers leaves of healing and hope for the world God loves.

With gratitude and hope,

The Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer
Moderators of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Farewell to the Moderators of the 226th General Assembly

The Rev. Tony Larson and the Rev. CeCe Armstrong, Moderators of the 226th General Assembly, became the first to moderate back-to-back Assemblies this year. In a change from previous Assemblies, the election of the Moderators of the 227th General Assembly was moved to the last day of plenaries in Milwaukee. On behalf of the PC(USA), thank you, Tony and CeCe, for your leadership, insight and humor as you've led business through two Assemblies in the midst of change and new vision.

Business decisions of the Assembly

At the 227th General Assembly (2026), a new chapter began for the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with the confirmation of Krysten Carter Holloway as president and CEO on June 28.

Holloway's presidency is also a historic milestone for the Board of Pensions, as she is the first African American woman and the first person of color to be named president and CEO.

Photo by Rich Copley

Krysten Carter Holloway is president and CEO of the Board of Pensions.

With Holloway's appointment, there are now three PC(USA) agencies being led by women of color, including the Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness; and the Rev. Dr. Bridgett Green, publisher and president of Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

Photo by Rich Copley

Rev. Dr. Bridgett A. Green is president of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

Photo by Jim Deveese

Ian Hall is president of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation.

By voice vote, commissioners approved:

- Ian Hall as president of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation
- The Rev. Dr. Bridgett A. Green as president of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation
- The Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Taylor as president and CEO of the Presbyterian Foundation.

Via the consent agenda, commissioners approved these Associate Stated Clerks, who were elected at the recommendation of the Unification Commission: Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, the Rev. Mienda Uriarte, Dr. Dianna Wright, the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins and Ruling Elder Kerry Rice.

New Organization for Mission

Photo by Kristen Gaydos

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Via the consent agenda, commissioners approved the Organization for Mission with amendments.

The Organization for Mission establishes a structure for the General Assembly as the highest council within the PC(USA). This document establishes and describes Presbyterian Life & Witness and its governing board by describing the roles and responsibilities for executive leadership, the Moderators of the General Assembly and the committees of the General Assembly as each undertakes the work of carrying out the Assembly's directives. In addition, it describes the importance of the relationships between PL&W, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation and the other agencies of the General Assembly.

Amendments to the Book of Order

The 227th General Assembly meeting in 2026 approved 26 proposed amendments to the Book of Order, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II. These amendments seek to reduce the risk of abuse from those in leadership positions in the church as well as revisit ordered ministries and other leadership positions within the church.

Photo by Jim Deweese

Teaching Elder Commissioner Sean Chow of San Diego Presbytery addresses the eighth plenary of GA227.

Most of the proposed amendments addressed the education and training of leaders: ruling elders, deacons, teaching elders, certified Christian educators, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, inquirers, candidates, people serving on committees responsible for preparation for ministry and employees of PC(USA)-related entities. These proposed amendments mandate trainings around the issues of anti-racism, intercultural competency, boundary training including sexual misconduct, child sexual abuse prevention or prevention of child and youth abuse. The proposed amendments also provide guidance for educational training of ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service and provide alternative processes for the evaluation of candidates for Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Two proposed amendments seek to amend membership in the presbyteries, with one amendment mandating membership with voice and vote for commissioned ruling elders for the duration of their commission and a second mandating that a presbytery hold the membership and rolls of people desiring to become members of the PC(USA). One proposed amendment clarifies that each order of ministry is equally important.

Finally, one proposed amendment seeks to add a foundational paragraph calling for faithful witness in public life and rejecting ideology that seeks to establish Christianity as a privileged or dominant force through the power of the state or that conflates religious identity with national, racial or ethnic supremacy.

The Book of Proposed Amendments from the 227th General Assembly in 2026 will be made available by the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Jihyun Oh, by the end of August 2026. It will be published on the PC(USA) website at pcusa.org and will be available as a PDF. All items of business passed by the 227th General Assembly may be found at pc-biz.org.

Actions around World Mission

Commissioners answered FIN-12, "On the Faithful Stewardship of Restricted World Mission Funds," with RIW-01, "Call to Review the Restructuring of the PC(USA) World Mission."

RIW-01 directs the Moderators to appoint a commission of seven members to, among other things, review decision-making processes that resulted in the elimination of World Mission and the termination of all appointed mission co-workers.

The work of the commission "shall be restorative rather than punitive," the overture states, "focused on truth-telling, institutional learning, transparency, repair of relationships and recommendations for future decision-making processes." It "shall not function as a disciplinary proceeding, and any credible concerns regarding misconduct shall be referred to the appropriate existing personnel, legal, ecclesial or governance processes." The commission's final report will be made to the 229th General Assembly (2030).

Photo by Rich Copley

Teaching Elder Commissioner Brandon Tacadena of Seattle Presbytery speaks during the ninth plenary session of GA227.

Election of the Moderators

The 227th General Assembly saw the election of the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer as its new Moderators. The pair received 250 commissioner votes, securing the majority needed on the first ballot and making additional rounds of voting unnecessary.

During their presentation to commissioners, Pumroy-Cordero shared a Spanish proverb that became a guiding image for their candidacy.

Photo by Kristen Gaydos

The Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer are surrounded by Moderators of Assemblies past at the conclusion of the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee.

"Cuando el río hace ruido, lleva agua," she said. "When the river makes noise, it carries water." The proverb, shared by her husband as she and Schondelmeyer considered whether to stand for election, became a reminder to pay attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Schondelmeyer connected that vision to the church's current moment. "As we lean into 21st-century ministry, we believe the Spirit is calling the church deeper," he said.

The pair also pointed to the denomination's plan to hold the 2028 General Assembly in Puerto Rico as another meaningful moment in their discernment journey. Schondelmeyer spoke of watching Pumroy-Cordero's joy when she learned of the recommendation.

"What a gift it would be at that General Assembly for the church to be welcomed there by an amazing Co-Moderator, whose ancestors are from Puerto Rico, and who holds the language in her heart," he said.

In previous Assemblies, the Moderator elections took place earlier in the docket. This was the first time elections were held at the end of the Assembly.

GA in Puerto Rico

Photo by Kristen Gaydos

Commissioners celebrate the selection of Puerto Rico as the site for the 228th General Assembly.

Commissioners, advisory delegates, staff and guests to the 228th General Assembly will be headed to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2028, the first time the Assembly will be held outside the continental United States. The Caribbean Island is home to a synod and three presbyteries.

Commissioners overwhelmingly approved holding the Assembly in Puerto Rico, but with an amendment — that before attending GA, "all commissioners, advisory delegates, volunteers and staff undergo cultural competency training on the socio-political and historical relationship between Puerto Rico and the U.S."

Community Day at General Assembly

Photo by Rich Copley

Photo by Rich Copley

Photo by Kristen Gaydos

Commissioners, advisory delegates, staff and guests gather in downtown Milwaukee for "Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence.

The kickoff of the 227th General Assembly began with a community-wide event in downtown Milwaukee called "Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence," bringing together Assembly participants, local Presbyterians, survivors and advocates for prayer and education.

Coordinated by the Presbytery of Milwaukee and the Office of Public Witness of Presbyterian Life & Witness, participants gathered at Père Marquette Park, across from the Hyatt Hotel, for a Guns to Gardens blacksmith demonstration and remarks from national and local speakers. Attendees then walked an approximately one-mile round-trip to Milwaukee City Hall, encircled the building in prayer and returned to the Baird Center.

"The Milwaukee Committee on Local Arrangements chose this theme because it is something that unfortunately unites all peoples across the United States," said the Rev. Dr. Ann Gibbs, presbyter for ministry vitality in the Presbytery of Milwaukee. "From rural communities to suburbs and cities, gun violence in some form is present throughout our nation in every state."

Gun violence education opportunities at the convention space

Photos by Jim Deweese

David Barnhart and Michelle Muñiz speak at the Community Day indoor movie screening event at the Baird Center during the 227th General Assembly.

As the talks and march took place, David Barnhart and Michelle Muñiz of Counter Stories Productions, a ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, screened portions of a documentary on gun violence that's still in production.

Both Barnhart and Muñiz were clear that the stories they've spent almost two years gathering through interviews in Albuquerque, Philadelphia and Detroit aren't focused so much on the terror and loss of gun violence as on what communities already are doing about it.

Town Square

Photos by Rich Copley

The GA227 Town Square offers attendees an opportunity to met with entities and partners about the various work across the PC(USA).

On June 27, the village that was the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gathered on the first floor of the Baird Center to learn more about the work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its partners in the Greater Milwaukee area and globally.

It was also a chance to gather swag from stickers to garden tools made from the parts of guns, see old friends, make new ones and take lots of selfies.

Staying Connected

Photo by Jim Deweese

Photo by Rich Copley

Photo by Kristen Gaydos

While the 227th General Assembly is now in the history books, the work is just beginning. Over the next two years, commissions, committees and PL&W staff will be focused on addressing the various items of business that have been approved.

You can stay up to date on the progress of committee work by following the Presbyterian News Service, visiting the 227th General Assembly webpage to review what happened in Milwaukee or reviewing Assembly decisions on MyGA.