

Hello! I am Elisabeth Paulk. I attend Second Presbyterian Church and was a Young Adult Advisory Delegate at the 226th PC(USA) General Assembly. I'm currently in college so I am unable to attend the in-person Baltimore Presbytery meeting but I have provided a report on my experience below.

The committee I was assigned to was the General Assembly Procedures committee (GAP). We had five total items of business to discuss over a period of three days, which I will outline in the order in which they were presented.

The first was in regards to the location of the next General Assembly, GA227. In addition to approving the motion to accept the Presbytery of Milwaukee's invitation to host, we also discussed the possibility of recommending a complete in-person GA. On this note, we decided against this because of both our knowing little about the planning process of GA and possible financial implications. The second item of business was simply approving the Associate Stated Clerks from the Office of the General Assembly.

The third item of business involved a complete overhaul of the Standing Rules of the General Assembly. The biggest change to these involved the election of moderators, which was moved to the end of General Assembly, as opposed to the beginning, to ensure their ability to be active commissioners. These new rules won't go into effect until the next GA, meaning the current co-moderators will serve two GAs. Additionally, the role of Missionary Advisory Delegate was deleted to create a new role of Partner Advisory Delegate. This would ideally increase the number of ecumenical partners and expand the kinds of representatives that could be invited.

The fourth item of business changed how the number of commissioners from presbyteries are determined (the membership quota needed for one RE vs three REs). The fifth item of business was a small amendment to the Book of Order.

Another important item of business discussed in plenary was on overture on Protecting Children from Gun Violence. This was simply a call to action, asking congregations to take an action of love as part of the movement to protect children against gun violence. During this time, commissioners shared personal experiences they've had with gun violence and we spent a moment to reflect and pray on lives lost because of it.

I had a wonderful time at GA this summer and I hope this information is helpful and useful for you!