

Headlines from General Assembly

Live into Hope!

CELEBRATING PEOPLE

- The Rev. Jihyun Oh was elected and as the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) – The first Asian American and first woman to fill this role.
- The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson were elected co-moderators of the 226th General Assembly.
- The Assembly paid tribute to the tireless work of the Acting Stated Clerk, the Rev. Bronwen Boswell, thanking Boswell for her service in the past year.
- The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, the former Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), was joyfully celebrated for changing the denomination that shaped and changed him.
- The UN-Frozen Chosen –commissioners and co-moderators loosened up with spontaneous dancing sessions that included the Electric Slide and Soul Train
- Women Leading Beyond the Parish – Letty Heredia, Carole Ann Hoard, and Libby Kyles were honored for their work for justice in communities at the 29th Women of Faith Breakfast

ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

Lynn

- Strengthening our Commitment to Inclusion – The Assembly passed an overture that the Book of Order be changed to include “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the list of protected classes recognized by the PCUSA as being guaranteed full participation and representation in the life of the church. It also passed a second, related change to include “the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01)” in the list of required topics of questioning for ordination candidates to reaffirm the denomination’s commitment to “freedom of conscience.” Both of these actions will require approval by 2/3 of presbyteries.

Michele

- Divestment from Fossil Fuels – The Assembly reconsidered a vote that called for immediate divestment of fossil fuels, opting for a more targeted approach which directed Mission Responsibility through Investment to immediately identify the top 10 fossil fuel companies that derive most of

their profits from the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels and immediately divest from those companies.

- Limiting Solitary Confinement - The Assembly urged Presbyterians to call upon their city, state and federal elected officials to enact reforms ending prolonged solitary confinement. It also called upon legislators to prohibit solitary confinement for vulnerable populations, including juveniles, pregnant people, disabled people and LGBTQIA+ persons.

Charese

- Re-imagining of Hispanic Latino ministry in the PC(USA) – A resolution from the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee to bring together leadership representing our diverse backgrounds and walks of life to learn and be empowered to advocate and support the movement of Re-imagining Hispanic Latino-a-é ministries in their own regions.
- Re-aligning Self-Development of People – An overture asking the Assembly to realign Self-Development of People (SDOP) with its “historical purposes” was referred to the new agency for response. While the concerns about Black churches and the communities they serve that were lifted up in the original overture, there were numerous inaccuracies and lack of clarity about the “historical purposes” of SDOP that could not be adequately addressed on the floor of the assembly.
- National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches – The Presbytery of the Pacific overtured the Assembly, requesting that the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches (NCKPC) be recognized as one of the denomination’s caucuses. After listening to testimony from Korean women who shared stories of mistreatment by NKPC, the Assembly disapproved this request. A comment asking NCKPC to research women’s experience of mistreatment and report back to the next assembly was also removed.

Elizabeth

- Protecting Children from Gun Violence - The Assembly unanimously passed an overture calling for action so that children may live free from gun violence, The overture called on every congregation in the PC(USA) to take some specific action of love and responsibility for children as part of the movement to protect children against gun violence.
- Changes to the Standing Rules – Several changes were made to the Standing Rules for the Assembly. The specific role of Missionary Advisory Delegate (MAD) has been eliminated in favor of a new Partner Advisory Delegates category. This

new category of advisory delegates increases the number of ecumenical partners and expands the type of representatives that can be invited.

Hal

- Unifying and Per Capita Budgets – In its closing plenary session, the Assembly approved the 2025-26 unifying and per capita budgets. **Should include the total budgets for 2005 (\$95 million?) and 2006 (\$96 million?), and per capita for those years.**
- Special Offerings Task Force – After reconsidering its original decision to include the option for congregations to retain 25% of all offerings, the Assembly approved significant changes to Special offerings. The recommendations include reducing the number of Special Offerings from four to three; changing the review cycle from four years to six years to allow for the proposed Offering cycle to grow and evolve; and the creation of a grant program to support congregations and mid-councils.

LOOKING FORWARD

- The Presbytery of Milwaukee will host the 227th General Assembly. It rejected a recommendation to meet in person for both committees and plenary. Committee work will be done online, and the plenary will be held in person.