



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PCUSA



The General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which meets every other year, met in June in Milwaukee. Pastor Elizabeth was one of our presbytery's commissioners to this GA (see below). (A presbytery is the regional governing body of PCUSA churches.) Overall, this 227th GA focused on strengthening the church's governance, preparing leaders for ministry, responding to global and social concerns and continuing the denomination's ongoing conversations about justice and faithful witness in a changing world. The following are highlights of this 227th GA. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please see Pastor Elizabeth or Pastor Will.

- Elected Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer as co-moderators for the next two years (i.e., until the next GA in June of 2028).
- Approved a balanced two-year denominational budget.
- Adopted a new organizational structure for the national ministries of the church.
- Approved updates to the preparation process for pastors while maintaining PCUSA's ordination standards for pastors.
- Approved requiring pastors to complete boundary training and abuse-prevention training every three years.
- Continued work toward the possible adoption of a new confession of faith that would address contemporary issues such as racism, economic inequality, environmental stewardship, violence and political polarization.
- Called for further review of PCUSA's global mission work after a recent restructuring and requested the development of a renewed theological vision for its global mission work.
- Declared that the Israeli government's actions in Gaza violate international law prohibiting genocide, called for increased advocacy regarding U.S. military aid to Israel and encouraged PCUSA members to avoid products connected with companies involved in violations of international law.
- Approved initiatives to address racism, declared white Christian nationalism to be incompatible with the teachings of Jesus - subject to the required approval of presbyteries for such constitutional changes - and strengthened the church's commitment to addressing climate change through investment policies and environmental stewardship.

- Approved work that would allow PCUSA churches to indicate whether they're open to considering LGBTQIA+ candidates during pastoral searches; commissioned a theological study on sexuality, gender, relationships and belonging; reaffirmed support for medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare; and authorized a survey to better understand sexual misconduct within church settings.

From Pastor Elizabeth:

“As a Teaching Elder Commissioner from the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery [our presbytery] attending the 227th General Assembly, I was struck by the passion and dedication that surrounded me at that gathering. Beginning with the three days of Zoom committee meetings and continuing in Milwaukee, the worship, the greetings from ecumenical representatives from denominations with which we have full communion and the business of the church were all filled with devotion and perseverance. I served on the General Assembly Relations committee, where we had an ongoing dialogue with the Episcopal Church and the Disciples of Christ Church to explore full communion, created an institutional relationship with PCUSA and Presbyterian Women, approved a new Organization of Mission and established Presbyterian Life and Witness and its governing board. I am proud of the good work we accomplished in our GA's goal of 'Preserving Toward Wholeness' together. Thank you for your prayers!”

