



On the Road to GA226

June 19, 2024

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Every 2 years the General Assembly of the PC(USA) gathers to conduct the business of the national church. Each of the last four assemblies has had a different format as a result of the pandemic: 2018 – in-person, 2020 – entirely online, 2022 – hybrid with committees meeting in-person and the plenary sessions online, 2024 – hybrid with committees meeting online and plenary sessions in-person. This last format will be the same one used when Milwaukee Presbytery hosts GA227 in 2026.

Our commissioners and delegates to GA225 – ruling elder Cindy Stigler, teaching elder Ted Anderson, and young adult advisor delegate (YAAD) Kate Pluta – will be joining their committees online this coming Tuesday through Thursday. Cindy is serving on General Assembly Procedures, Ted is on International Engagement, and Kate is on Domestic Engagement. Then we will all be traveling to Salt Lake City next Saturday 6/29 for the plenary sessions. The assembly ends on July 4th. Others I know who are attending are stated clerk Christian Boyd on the Advisory Committee to the Constitution and Rev. Teresa Larson working “behind the scenes”.

As always, there are hot-button issues the Assembly will be addressing coming from the overtures that have been made. Some of these include:

- [POL-01] On Amending the Book of Order to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Among the Categories Against Which This Church Does Not Discriminate [<https://www.pc-biz.org/committee/3000105/business>]
- [POL-13] Request for Authoritative Interpretation on Celebrating the Lord's Supper within an Electronic Worship Service [<https://www.pc-biz.org/committee/3000105/business>] This is the overture from our presbytery.
- [GAEC-28] On Asking the General Assembly to Work with the Board of Pensions to Adjust the Medical Plan [<https://www.pc-biz.org/committee/3000103/business>] This comes from our own Synod of Lakes and Prairies and addresses the changes being implemented by the Board of Pensions to the rate structure for Medical dues.

There will also be reports from the Unification Commission and the Funding Model Development Team. Check out PC-Biz for details on all that the assembly will be dealing with [www.pc-biz.org]. After the assembly ends, we your commissioners, delegate, and staff, will share our insights and interpretations.

Please pray for Kate, Ted, Cindy, and all the other participants of GA 226 as they grapple with the work before them and its impact on our church into the future.

Grace and Peace.

Lisa