

Illinois Prairie Presbytery

Summary of 227th PC(USA) General Assembly (2026)

June 22–July 2, 2026 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin • Theme: “Persevering Toward Wholeness”

Purpose: This handout separates actions completed by GA227 from work assigned for further study/review and from the 25 proposed constitutional amendments (26-A through 26-Y) that now require presbytery votes. A General Assembly action may take effect immediately within its authority; a proposed Book of Order amendment does not become constitutional until approved by the required majority of presbyteries.

I. Major Actions Completed or Decided by GA227

Action	What GA227 decided
Moderators elected	The Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer were elected on the first ballot and installed as Moderators on July 2.
2030 General Assembly format	GA227 voted 389–83 that the 229th General Assembly in 2030 will be fully in person, with an abbreviated three-day exhibit hall. The site for 2030 was not selected by this action. GA228 in 2028 remains a hybrid gathering in Puerto Rico.
2027–2028 unified budget	GA227 approved a balanced unified budget of approximately \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028.
Christian nationalism	GA227 approved “Standing Against White Christian Nationalism” and separately approved a proposed constitutional amendment on faithful public witness. The social-witness action is an Assembly action; the constitutional language is listed below as Amendment 26-A and still requires presbytery approval.
Ordination reform	GA227 approved the Task Force on the Theology and Practice of Ordination report, including a proposed Senior Ordination Portfolio pathway and other constitutional changes. Those Book of Order changes are not yet in force and are included among amendments 26-B through 26-Q.
Climate and investments	GA227 approved actions calling for an orderly removal of investments from companies whose primary business is fossil fuels and related faith-based investment work.
Israel/Palestine and Gaza	GA227 approved social-witness actions concerning Israel/Palestine, including language characterizing Israel’s actions in Gaza as genocide.
Gender and sexuality	GA227 approved advocacy for access to gender-affirming health care and an optional Church Leadership Connection/Ministry Discernment Profile feature allowing congregations to indicate openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ pastor.
Ecumenical relationships	GA227 affirmed ongoing dialogue with The Episcopal Church and the beginning of formal dialogue exploring full communion with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

II. Matters Referred for Further Study, Review, or Development

Matter	Next step
Possible new confession	Rather than advancing the draft directly toward adoption, GA227 approved continued churchwide study and a new 15-member committee to continue the work. Any addition to the Book of Confessions requires a much longer constitutional process.
World Mission restructuring	GA227 created a seven-member commission to review the decision-making processes that led to the elimination of Presbyterian World Mission and termination of most mission co-worker positions. The work is to be restorative rather than punitive and is to report to GA229 (2030). A related review of restricted World Mission funds and donor intent is also part of the follow-up.
Sexuality and family	GA227 approved GEN-09, directing development of a denomination-wide study on sexuality and family, including engagement with peer-reviewed research in medicine, biology, psychology, and related fields.
Collaborative approaches to ordained ministry	GA227 approved ORD-03 to study collaborative approaches to ordained ministry as the church continues to examine changing patterns of pastoral leadership.
Board of Pensions / GA relationship	GA227 referred the question of establishing a formal “deliverance” governing the General Assembly’s relationship with the Board of Pensions to a working group for further work.
Expanded healthcare options	Work on expanded healthcare choices for ministers was referred for additional study, with attention to equity, solidarity in ministry, and compensation disparities.
Agency pay equity	FIN-06 was referred back for further consultation with PC(USA) agencies and entities, with work to return to GA228 (2028).
Funding Model Development	Extended deadline for funding model team to develop alternatives to per capita funding model
Future General Assembly formats	Although GA227 decided that 2030 will be fully in person, Presbyterian Life & Witness was directed to study frequency, financial implications, possible Book of Order changes, technology, and in-person/hybrid formats and report to GA228 (2028).

III. Proposed Book of Order Amendments Grouped by Major Category

Status: GA227 approved 25 proposed amendments, 26-A through 26-Y, for transmission to the presbyteries. They are not yet part of the Book of Order. Each presbytery votes on each amendment separately, and the required majority of presbyteries must approve an amendment before it becomes constitutional.

Major category	Amendments	Primary focus
1. Public Witness & Ordered Ministry	26-A–26-B	Christian nationalism/public witness and equality of ordered ministries
2. Preparing Ministers of Word & Sacrament	26-C–26-M	Inquiry, candidacy, theological education, supervised service, final assessment, Senior Ordination Portfolio
3. Commissioned Pastors / CREs	26-N–26-Q, 26-W	Educational standards, anti-racism and boundary training, Christian Educators, voice and vote in presbytery
4. Certified Church Service & Christian Educators	26-R–26-S	Continuing formation and recurring training requirements
5. Council Training, Sessions & Presbytery Administration	26-T–26-V, 26-Y	Anti-racism, boundaries, abuse prevention, session and minister recertification
6. New Worshiping Communities	26-X	Presbytery responsibility for emerging/new worshiping communities and fellowships

Category 1 — Public Witness & Ordered Ministry

No.	Section	Topic	Plain-language summary
26-A	F-1.0305	Faithful Witness in Public Life	Adds constitutional language affirming public witness for justice, peace, mercy, and human dignity and rejecting ideologies that privilege Christianity through state power or merge religion with national, racial, or ethnic supremacy.
26-B	G-2.0102	Ordered Ministries	Affirms deacons, ruling elders, and ministers of Word and Sacrament as gifts to the church and states that one ordered ministry is not above another.

Category 2 — Preparing Ministers of Word and Sacrament

No.	Section	Topic	Plain-language summary
26-C	G-2.0104c	Gifts and Qualifications	Adds anti-racism education and formation expectations connected with preparation for ordered ministry.
26-D	G-2.06	Preparation for Ministry	Clarifies that this section concerns preparation for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.
26-E	G-2.0601	Oversight of Preparation	Strengthens training expectations for those overseeing preparation and serving as liaisons, including anti-racism, intercultural competency, implicit bias, and equitable support of candidates.
26-F	G-2.0603	Inquiry	Adds or clarifies screening and evaluation requirements, including background checks and psychosocial/vocational evaluation.

26-G	G-2.0603	Inquiry	Reorganizes language in the inquiry section, including placement of boundary and abuse-prevention requirements.
26-H	G-2.0606	Required Training	Establishes boundary, sexual-misconduct, and child/youth abuse-prevention training requirements, including recurring recertification.
26-I	G-2.06	Theological Education	Clarifies graduate theological education expectations, including Hebrew, Greek, and biblical exegesis using the biblical languages.
26-J	G-2.0606	Supervised Service	Clarifies the place and description of supervised service while under presbytery care.
26-K	G-2.0607	Senior Ordination Portfolio	Creates a Senior Ordination Portfolio as an alternative to, or in combination with, the Standard Ordination Examinations and establishes assessment expectations.
26-L	G-2.0607	Final Assessment	Coordinates final-assessment requirements with revised preparation and educational standards.
26-M	G-2.07	Ordination	Clarifies the section title and language concerning ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Category 3 — Commissioned Pastors / Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)

No.	Section	Topic	Plain-language summary
26-N	G-2.1002	Educational Standards	Establishes clearer denominational educational competencies or baselines for ruling elders preparing to be commissioned to pastoral service.
26-O	G-2.1002	Anti-Racism Formation	Adds anti-racism education/training expectations for ruling elders preparing for commissioned pastoral service.
26-P	G-2.1002	Boundary & Abuse Prevention	Clarifies boundary, sexual-misconduct, and abuse-prevention training and recurring recertification for those preparing to be commissioned.
26-Q	G-2.1002	Christian Educators	Allows presbyteries to recognize certain preparation of Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders toward educational requirements for commissioned pastoral service, subject to examination and commissioning.
26-W	G-3.0301	Voice and Vote in Presbytery	Gives ruling elders actively serving under a pastoral commission voice and vote in presbytery during the term of that commission.

Category 4 — Certified Church Service & Christian Educators

No.	Section	Topic	Plain-language summary
26-R	G-2.1101	Certified Church Service	Clarifies ongoing formation and continuing-education expectations for persons in certified church service.

26-S	G-2.1103	Certified Christian Educators	Clarifies boundary and abuse-prevention training and recertification expectations for Certified Christian Educators.
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Category 5 — Council Training, Sessions & Presbytery Administration

No.	Section	Topic	Plain-language summary
26-T	G-3.0106	Anti-Racism Policies & Training	Strengthens anti-racism policy and training requirements for councils and specified church leaders, including recurring training and measurable outcomes.
26-U	G-3.0106	Boundary & Abuse-Prevention Policies	Clarifies council responsibilities for recurring boundary, sexual-misconduct, and abuse-prevention training.
26-V	G-3.0206	Session Training	Requires all session members to complete boundary/sexual-misconduct and child/youth abuse-prevention training, with documentation and recertification every 36 months.
26-Y	G-3.0306	Minister Training	Clarifies recurring boundary and abuse-prevention training requirements for minister members, including 36-month recertification and presbytery oversight.

Category 6 — New Worshiping Communities & Fellowships

No.	Section	Topic	Plain-language summary
26-X	G-3.0301	New Worshiping Communities	Clarifies or expands presbytery responsibility for participants and records connected with new worshiping communities and fellowships and their relationship to presbytery.

IV. Cross-Cutting Themes

Theme	Amendments	Why it matters
Anti-racism formation	26-C, 26-E, 26-O, 26-T	Expands anti-racism education, formation, policies, and recurring training across preparation for ministry and council life.
Boundaries, sexual misconduct & abuse prevention	26-H, 26-P, 26-S, 26-U, 26-V, 26-Y	Creates or clarifies recurring training, documentation, and recertification expectations for candidates, CREs, educators, sessions, ministers, and councils.
Preparation and assessment for ministry	26-D–26-L	Reworks significant portions of the preparation process, including education, supervised service, assessment, and the Senior Ordination Portfolio.
Commissioned pastoral leadership	26-N–26-Q, 26-W	Strengthens preparation standards and expands presbytery participation for actively commissioned ruling elders.

V. Practical Priorities for Presbyteries, COMs, CPMs, and Sessions

- CPM: Review 26-C through 26-L together rather than as isolated amendments; they form a coordinated package affecting preparation for ministry.
- COM: Pay particular attention to 26-N through 26-Q and 26-W because they affect preparation and presbytery participation of Commissioned Pastors/CREs.
- Sessions: 26-V would create a direct recurring training obligation for every session member.
- Presbytery leadership: 26-T, 26-U, and 26-Y could require updated policies, approved training programs, documentation systems, and 36-month recertification tracking.
- Voting preparation: Because amendments are voted on individually, presbyteries should distinguish the broader theme of a category from the exact constitutional language of each amendment.

Sources

PC(USA), 227th General Assembly in Brief: <https://pcusa.org/resource/227th-general-assembly-brief>

PC(USA), Proposed Amendments to the Constitution — GA227 (2026):

<https://pcusa.org/resource/proposed-amendments-constitution>

Presbyterian News Service, General Assembly votes for fully in-person GA in 2030:

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/7/1/general-assembly-votes-fully-person-ga-2030>