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General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
GA 227
Milwaukee 2026

On the Road
to the 227th General Assembly

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Dates to Know

December 24, 2025
Commissioner and Advisory Delegate names submitted

Spring 2026
Business deadlines
Available here

June 22-24, 2026
General Assembly Committees meet online

June 27, 2026
Community Day - service and education opportunities, ministry fair, and community gatherings

June 28, 2026
Worship in local congregations and convening of plenary

June 29-July 2, 2026
General Assembly Plenary

Kate Trigger Duffert Reflects on GA as a Mirror

Often when we discuss the councils of the church, we say the General Assembly is the highest council of the church. In some sense, this is true in that commissioners arrive at the Assembly through ordination in a congregation, to serving at the presbytery, to being commissioned to the Assembly. But this depiction can leave us feeling that the General Assembly is a distant group, somehow separate from the mission and ministry of local congregations.

Recently I've had the privilege of simultaneously serving on session, attending presbytery meetings, and coordinating the planning process for the Assembly. In this time of intersection, I have become more convinced of the unique and beautiful role of the General Assembly as both a reflection of and vision for the church.

"The General Assembly does not just reflect the realities of the church at large, but it also reflects new visions to the church — speaking prophetically so that we may embrace God's continued call in our communal life."

– Kate Trigger Duffert
Associate Stated Clerk and
Director of General Assembly Planning.

The work of the General Assembly is rooted in the experiences of local congregations. Overtures begin with one or two members identifying a particular need for the church. There are relatively few hoops to jump through in order for the discernment of a handful of members to reach discernment at the Assembly level. The overture is written and requires only one mid council to approve it before it is passed along for consideration. In this way, the topics that are addressed by each Assembly come directly from the ground up. Due to this grassroots process, the discussions at the General Assembly reflect the mission and ministry of Presbyterians across the denomination in a variety of local contexts. And, just as importantly,

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the individuals who discuss and discern together are ruling elders and teaching elders from across the church.

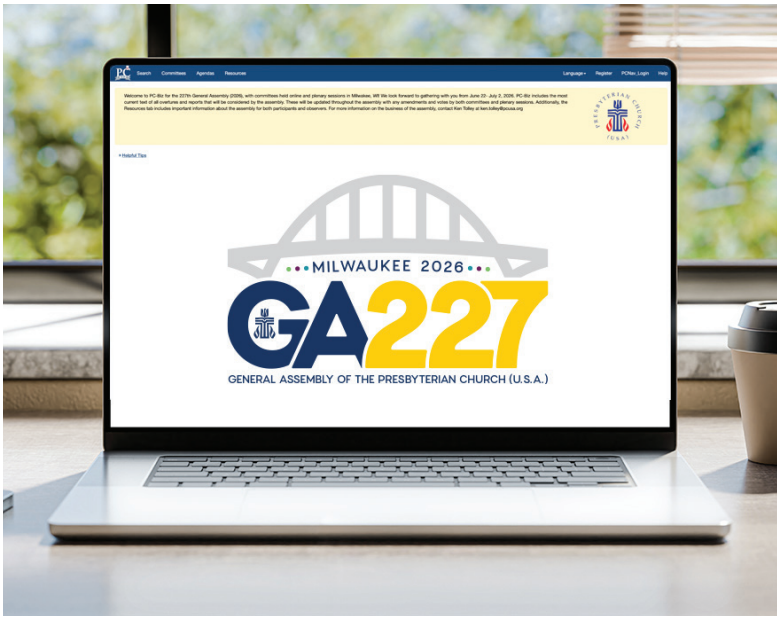
Commissioners come from ministries that are large and small, urban and rural, historic and new, intercultural and intergenerational and more. The unique insights that commissioners bring because of the diversity of places served (not to mention their individual life experiences!) make for an Assembly that is deeply grounded in the multitude of ways in which we are the PC(USA). There is no Assembly without members serving in local contexts. There is no Assembly separate from what is happening in congregations across the denomination.

The General Assembly does not just reflect the realities of the church at large, but it also reflects new visions to the church — speaking prophetically so that we may embrace God's continued call in our communal life. Just as the diversity of commissioners and advisory delegates shapes the discernment of the Assembly, so too does this discernment shape the messages sent back to congregations and mid councils. This mirror both reflects what is and gives an opportunity to see things we may not have otherwise experienced in our local contexts. New understandings of churches unlike our own now can inform how we reach out to our communities. Worship services with unfamiliar songs may inform the next sermon series. The decisions of the Assembly may bring to light a topic that we did not previously have the words or resources for but now feel equipped and called to engage.

This reflection of our connectional bodies at work is both an important part of how we order ourselves as Presbyterians in the church, and it is only possible through the thoughtful engagement and service of people in congregations and mid councils. As we continue to prepare for the Assembly, I encourage you to ask yourself how you are being called to serve. Consider how your voice and participation may add to the Assembly's mirroring of the church — both as a reflection of what is and as a vision of what could be.

PC-Biz Website is Up for the 227th General Assembly

The business website for the 227th General Assembly is up and running as we continue to prepare for next summer. PC-Biz.org allows you to track new business items as they come in and access helpful resources about the upcoming Assembly. To find the resources currently available, including the manual for the 227th General Assembly, click on the "resources" tab on the top left-hand menu on the website. You can also access business from previous assemblies via the search feature. This website will continue to be updated as the Assembly draws closer and is available to everyone, without the need to create an account



Former YAAD Describes Experiencing Transformative Work of the Church Firsthand

El Stewart served as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate — or YAAD — from the Mid-South Presbytery to the 226th General Assembly (2024) in Salt Lake City. They say they felt called to participate in GA for multiple reasons, including a desire to "experience the transformative work of the church firsthand." Beyond that, El relished the opportunity to meet others who shared their commitment to justice within the church and beyond and talk with others about what it means to be trans, queer, neurodivergent, and/or physically disabled and wanting to participate in the church. El says their experience at GA has helped shape their call to ministry. They just began seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, this semester.

Unification Commission Member Reflects on Shared Love and Commitment to the Church

Unification Commission Co-Chair Felipe Martinez introduces member Frances Lin, who reflects on her experiences serving on the commission. Frances has served the church on numerous committees and commissions and says the most rewarding element is always the relationships that are developed. On the Unification Commission in particular, she appreciated the shared sense of call to serve and commitment to seeking what's best for the denomination. She also shares that she didn't anticipate how big the scope of the commission's work would be, and it has given her an even deeper appreciation for staff and volunteers and everyone involved. Frances hopes people will understand that changes are not easy and take time. "We have really good people," she says. "And everyone involved is trying to do their best."

Years Before Margaret Towner, Milwaukee Played Host to the Then-Largest Gathering of Women in Pulpits in a Single City

At next year's General Assembly, the PC(USA) will proudly celebrate the legacy of the Rev. Margaret Towner, who — in 1956 — became the first woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church U.S. and later closed out her ministry career with 17 years as pastor in Waukesha County, Wisconsin. However, eight years prior to Towner's historic ordination, Milwaukee hosted another historic moment in the history of women's leadership in the church. In advance of the 1948 Biennial Assembly of the United Council of Church Women, 43 women delegates from around the country stepped into the pulpits of congregations in Milwaukee. According to the clipping below from the Presbyterian Historical Society archives, it was "the first time that so many women spoke at so many churches at one time in an American city."

Shown in the pulpit of United Church here is Mrs. David Jones of Greensboro, NC. She was one of 43 delegates to the biennial Assembly of the United Council of Church Women who occupied Protestant pulpits throughout Milwaukee as a pre-assembly venture. It was the first time that so many women spoke in so many churches at one time in a single American city. Mrs. Jones, above, assailed suspicions and distrust among nations and called for complete understanding of the dignity and worth of human beings.

Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1948. [Pearl ID:148289].

GA Planning Team Pays a Visit to Milwaukee

Members of the General Assembly Planning Team, along with staff from the Communications Ministry of the Interim Unified Agency, recently traveled to Milwaukee to spend several days meeting with local leaders and scoping out locations for next summer's big event.