

PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convenes June 22-July 2, 2026, with online committee meetings followed by in-person plenaries. While this year's gathering remains hybrid, GA will consider reinstating a fully in-person format, including the return of exhibit halls, beginning in 2028.

Saturday, June 27, will be a **community day of service** and witness in the Milwaukee area. A **mission fair** will be held on that day from 2-5 p.m. in response to calls to bring the exhibit hall back.

The **election for co-moderator** will be held at the end of the assembly, on July 2. The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, co-moderators of GA226, will preside over the GA227 plenaries.

Eight pastors have announced they will stand for co-moderator:

- The Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley will stand with the Rev. Dr. William C. Myers.
- The Rev. Rebecca Luter will stand with The Rev. Chris Peters.
- The Rev. Dr. Frances Lin will stand with the Rev. Dr. Sean Chow.
- The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer will stand with the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero.

Overtures on unification

The Unification Commission guided the formation of the **Presbyterian Life & Witness** (formerly the Interim Unified Agency), and GA227 will determine whether the current model becomes the denomination's permanent form of shared life.

Commissioners will hear the UC's report and vote on the 2027-2028 budget. Overtures recommend a new introduction to the Manual of the General Assembly, the reinstatement of the Office of Theology and Witness, and the reinstatement of the immigration attorney position.

24-A and 24-C oversight

Clarification is sought regarding **Amendments 24-A and 24-C**, widely referred to as the Olympia Overture, which added "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" to the categories protected from discrimination in the *Book of Order*. The passage of 24-C requires councils of the church to determine a candidate's commitment to fulfill all requirements outlined in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. GA227 is asked to establish a committee to study 24-C to assess whether its implications impair freedom of conscience.

Mission co-workers and missiology

Three overtures address interconnected questions following the **closure of World Mission** and the elimination of 54 co-worker positions: whether non-disclosure covenants silenced mission co-workers, whether the process violated the denomination's own policies, and what missiology will guide the PC(USA)'s global engagement going forward. A group of denominational leaders, former mission co-workers, and academics gathered in March to begin drafting a missiological statement to present if RIW-02 passes and directs staff to develop a new formal theology of mission.



MRTI and fossil fuels

Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has recommended **divesting from ConocoPhillips and Duke Energy**, citing a lack of meaningful policies and practices regarding greenhouse gas emissions and continued fossil fuel development. The recommendation would place both companies on the denomination's divestment/proscription list, prohibiting further investment until they meet the church's environmental standards. A separate business item (COM-001) would direct MRTI to continue engaging additional Climate Action 100+ companies, with possible further divestment recommendations to be considered by the 228th Assembly. Another item (CLJ-02) goes further, seeking full divestment as soon as 2030.

LGBT+ advocacy

GEN-02, "On Access to Healthcare," calls on GA to declare that the PC(USA) supports all individuals, including minors, in accessing medically necessary, **evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare**. The overture builds on POL-01 from GA226, which added gender identity and sexual orientation to the denomination's non-discrimination language. The ongoing implementation of the Olympia Overture amendments continues to shape how the denomination approaches inclusion in ordination.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners are asked to condemn the **Israeli government's actions** in Gaza as violations of the United Nations Genocide Convention and to call on members of the

church to contact Congress and the president to block U.S. military sales to Israel until Israel complies with international human rights law. The stated clerk, the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., and church members are called upon to urge the U.S. government to enact a trade embargo on Israel until certain humanitarian conditions are met.

The new confession

A special committee has proposed a **new confession** for the PC(USA) addressing contemporary issues such as racism, intersectionality, colonialism and ecological justice. The four-part document is described as "both a declaration of our faith and a confession of our sins." If GA227 approves the draft, a separate committee would study and potentially amend it before a subsequent assembly votes on its inclusion in the Book of Confessions.

Christian nationalism

COM-033 recommends that the assembly formally repudiate the ideology and practices of **White Christian nationalism** "in all its forms," distinguishing patriotism from nationalism and arguing that White Christian nationalism is fundamentally about power rather than genuine Christian faith. A companion overture would amend the *Book of Order* to prohibit the denomination from aligning with any theology that privileges a particular faith tradition in civic life.



Stay informed on updates from GA:

Visit our website: pres-outlook.org for stories and to **download** *The Presbyterian Outlook's Guide to GA227*

Follow us on social:

Facebook: Presbyterian Outlook

Bluesky: Presbyterian Outlook

Would you like text alerts about GA?

Visit pres-outlook.org/ga to register or scan the QR code.

