



# 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**  
GA 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**  
GA Plenary



## Ruling elder and former commissioner says GA is 'the party you want to be at'

Zayn Silva, a ruling elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, served as a commissioner to the 226th General Assembly (2024) in Salt Lake City. Here, Zayn shares about his experience as a trans, Black, Puerto Rican man who found friends like him, allies, joy and dancing in his time at General Assembly. He talks about proudly and safely getting to serve communion and pray for the communities he holds dear. Zayn prays that anyone who feels led to participate in GA would follow the prodding of the Spirit.

"When we show up and we are allowed to show up as our full selves ... trans, queer, Black, ally, justice seekers and people who want to do better ... we show the future of the Presbyterian Church that they were in mind ... that they deserve an inclusive church and a fiercely loving space." 

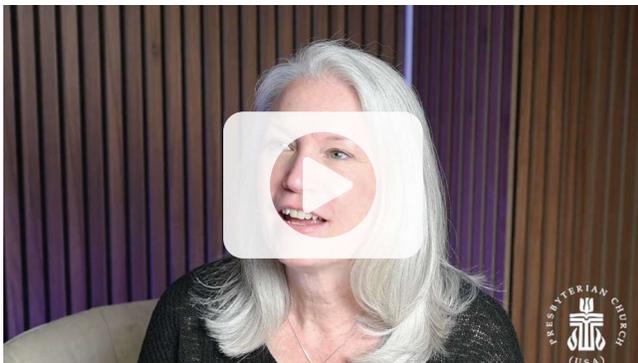




## *A prayer for the church and newly elected delegates*

For the past few months, presbyteries have been discerning who their Young Adult Advisory Delegates, Ruling Elder Commissioners and Teaching Elder Commissioners will be. With the final date to submit delegate names being Dec. 24, many presbyteries are beginning to move from discernment to support of their elected delegates. Let us join in prayer for this unique time. 

*Triune God,  
You show us in your very being how we are called to be like you, many and yet also one. You call us each to serve your creation with unique gifts, experiences and lives. Through your people, you have called commissioners and advisory delegates to serve at the 227th General Assembly in 2026. May our actions equip and empower each commissioner and delegate to answer your call to serve. May our moments of apprehension and excitement be used to give energy to discerning your will. May our gathering be a testament to the community of justice, peace and grace that you wish for us all.  
Amen.*



### *Keeping the church relevant and responsive*

Ruling Elder Kris Thompson emphasizes that, while part of the commission's work is to manage administrative details, that is far from the whole story. She says the commission's work is also about "making sure the PC(USA) is relevant and important and just as focused and leading us as a people into this time." She reflects with gratitude on the opportunity serving on the commission has provided her to use her experience in nonprofit management, justice issues and women's justice to the benefit of the church. Thompson says she hopes that at next year's General Assembly, the whole community shows up understanding that the world is different, and the church must change to serve the needs of a changing world. 



### *Webinar: Back to Basics on Polity and Structure*

Assistant Stated Clerk and Ruling Elder Flor Vélez-Díaz recently taught a webinar for ruling elders, deacons, and other church leaders to explore the essential components of Presbyterian polity and structures. Whether you're still learning all the ins and outs of the PC(USA) or looking to brush up on your knowledge, you can [access the webinar](https://www.pcusa.org/leader-formation) for free to see how the work of the General Assembly connects to congregations and mid councils, why the Book of Order, Book of Confessions, and Robert's Rules are such important guides, and how our judicial processes work. This is a great way to get excited and prepare for next summer's Assembly. 



## ***PC(USA) teaching elder reflects on global reformed church meeting in Thailand***

*by Brian Ellison,*

*a PC(USA) teaching elder and Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians*

I had the incredible privilege to serve as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) delegate at the 27th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Yes, I had some amazing food, visited gorgeous Buddhist temples and checked out the bustling night markets. But the real joy was the opportunity to be part of a global ecumenical gathering, learning about and sharing in the one body of Christ around the world.

The General Council happens every seven years and sets the WCRC's agenda for prophetic engagement, theological reflection and shared ministry. Having watched our own General Assembly wrestle with many difficult questions over decades, it was both encouraging and humbling to watch delegates from every part of the world struggle to find consensus on those same issues, from peace in the Middle East to advocacy for immigrants and refugees.

Just like the PC(USA), the WCRC has wrestled with our Reformed commitment to communion — a full and abiding unity in Christ — and what that means for intentional inclusion of all God's people. Some of the most hopeful conversations I had were with those seeking compassionate and faithful words on behalf of LGBTQIA+ people, a focus deeply important to me in my work with the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and also one that brings out some of the differences among the WCRC's churches. I learned about and spent time with an ecumenical group known as the Rainbow Pilgrims of Faith, and the stories shared by queer siblings living out their faith in non-affirming or even dangerous spaces will both haunt and inspire me.



*photo courtesy of Brian Ellison*

*Brian Ellison, Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians preaching at a Hmong church in Thailand.*

One highlight — just as it often has been for me at our own General Assembly — was worship. In music and liturgy, offered in a dozen languages by diverse communities, we experienced God in sometimes challenging, always awe-filled ways. I also had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preach a Sunday service in a Hmong village in the mountains high above Chiang Mai (and to share in a potluck of chicken and vegetable dishes from dozens of church members' own gardens!).

As our own General Assembly draws near, let us remember that our work — as meaningful and important as it is — is but one part of what God is doing in the Church around the world! 🌍



## *Unification Commission members and former YAADs encourage other young adults to serve*

It began, as so many things do in the Church, with a dream.

Three years ago, we stepped into the 225th General Assembly (2022) as Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs). We arrived with wide eyes and open hearts, expecting a single week of conversations about the church's future. If only we knew what the Holy Spirit had really signed us up for!

photo by Kristen Goydos



*A Young Adult Advisory Delegate speaking at the 226th General Assembly.*

During that Assembly, we learned about a significant proposal: to create a commission to unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. It was an important item of business, shaping how our national Church would be organized for years to come.

But when we read the charter, we noticed something missing. The commission was designed to include a wide diversity of

representatives across the Church — except young adults.

In late-night YAAD Zoom calls across time zones, a dream began to take root. What if young adults had seats at the table, too? What if the church's youngest voices, full of creativity and passion, could help shape this future?

With the encouragement of the Spirit and the support of commissioners, the Assembly amended the proposal to add two YAAD representatives who would bring a different perspective to this work.

Neither of us had any expectation that we'd be the ones to serve. Yet, with the encouragement of friends and others in the Church, we applied — and were invited to serve on the commission!

Walking into our first commission meeting was overwhelming. The task of unification felt so big, and we were the youngest people in the room. We did not have decades of Church service or deep knowledge of national governance structures.

But we quickly discovered that being new was not a weakness. Our questions were welcomed. Our fresh eyes helped us see possibilities that others sometimes overlooked. And we realized that our fellow commissioners — wise, faithful and gracious — were also asking questions, learning and growing.

We learned that everyone, no matter their experience, has something to learn. And when we learn together, the work gets stronger. 🙏

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