

New Resource Explains the Actions of the 227th General Assembly

The Rev. Dr. Christian D. Boyd, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Milwaukee, has published a new resource designed to help Presbyterians understand the decisions and work of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Understanding the Actions of the 227th General Assembly (2026): A Guide to the Decisions, Theology, and Governance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides an accessible overview of the Assembly's major actions and explains how those decisions relate to the theology, Constitution, and shared governance of the church.

The 227th General Assembly held particular significance for the Presbytery of Milwaukee. As the host presbytery, we welcomed commissioners, advisory delegates, national church leaders, ecumenical partners, volunteers, and visitors from across the denomination. Members of our congregations provided hospitality, assisted with worship and local arrangements, and helped the wider church gather for prayer, discernment, fellowship, and decision-making.

Once the Assembly concluded, however, the work of understanding and interpreting its actions began.

Reports about a General Assembly often focus on a small number of controversial votes or public statements. The actual work of the Assembly is much broader. Commissioners consider matters involving theology, constitutional interpretation, church governance, mission, ecumenical relationships, social witness, financial stewardship, and the organization of General Assembly agencies. Some decisions take effect immediately, some require the approval of a majority of the presbyteries, and others offer guidance or recommendations rather than binding requirements.

This resource helps readers understand those important distinctions.

The book explains how the General Assembly functions within Presbyterian polity, how commissioners and advisory delegates participate in the discernment process, and how proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* are considered by the presbyteries. It also provides context for significant actions of the Assembly, including their theological foundations and their practical implications for councils, congregations, ordered ministries, and members of the church.

For the members of the Presbytery of Milwaukee and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, this guide offers an opportunity to remain connected to the Assembly that gathered in our community. It can assist sessions as they discuss denominational developments, help commissioners interpret the Assembly's work within their congregations, and provide church members with a clearer understanding of how decisions are made in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The guide also reinforces an essential principle of Presbyterian governance: the church's decisions are made through elected councils and representative bodies. The General Assembly does not act through a small group of unaccountable individuals. Its work is conducted by commissioners elected by presbyteries, gathered in worship and prayer, working through committees, public hearings, deliberation, and plenary action. Those decisions remain connected to the constitutional responsibilities of sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly.

The book is intended not only as a record of what happened, but also as an educational resource for strengthening participation in the connectional life of the church. Understanding the Assembly's work helps Presbyterians engage faithfully with proposed constitutional amendments, interpret church policies responsibly, and participate more fully in the governance and mission of the denomination.

Paperback and ebook editions may be purchased through Amazon. A complete PDF edition may also be downloaded free of charge from the C. D. Boyd LLC publications webpage at:

<https://www.cdboydllc.com/publications>

Congregations, sessions, committees, commissioners, and individual church members are encouraged to use this resource as they study the work of the 227th General Assembly and consider how its decisions may shape the continuing witness and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).