

Ruling Elder Commissioner Report  
227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
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“By God’s grace we are formed and reformed to continue growing in faith.”  
The Rev Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk, General Assembly

As stated at General Assembly, “The theme of GA 227, “Persevering Toward Wholeness” honors the need for the church to come together as one in this challenging time so that we may seek God’s kin-dom.” The scriptural reference was Revelation 22:2, which reads “...the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nation.”

It was an honor and privilege to serve as Savannah Presbytery’s Ruling Elder Commissioner to the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I will treasure forever this shared experience with The Rev. Dr. John Ruehl (pastor of White Bluff Presbyterian Church) and Arianna Perez-Roblero (Youth Advisor – Iglesia Latina Presbyterian Church). While our committee work in advance was separate – each of us serving on different Committees – our GA experience was very much shared, for which I am grateful.

Focusing on pressing social issues and promoting unity, the PC USA 227th General Assembly focused on the following themes:

- Emphasizing racial justice and reconciliation within the church and society.
- Advocating for climate justice and environmental stewardship.
- Promoting inclusivity and support for LGBTQ+ individuals in the church.
- Addressing poverty and economic inequality through mission initiatives.
- Encouraging interfaith dialogue and collaboration for peace.
- Strengthening the church’s commitment to global mission work and outreach.

I was concerned that some of the issues might be divisive in our faith instead of uniting. And yet, once in the Plenaries, I truly felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, for which we had consistently prayed. We prayed for God’s presence in our discernment in our committee work and in our Plenary work. We prayed for God’s love to be our guide in all our decisions. I believe it was.

Christ commanded us to love God and to love one another. All “one anothers”, not just those who are copies of ourselves. God asks that we stand against hatred and cruelty in every form.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie brought the Assembly greetings from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, which she serves as president and general secretary. In her remarks, she said “You, PC(USA), have shown us that doctrine and discipleship belong together, and what we confess on Sunday must be lived on Monday.

I believe, in the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, we lived our doctrine and discipleship.