My General Assembly Experience by Ruling Elder Liz Carrabine

God's hand and guidance were felt and visible to me as a Ruling Elder Commissioner at the 227th General Assembly.

I was impressed by many actions that occurred during my experience, including:

- by the process of debating and discerning overtures during committee and plenary sessions,
- by the vibrant and meaningful worship services held daily, which reminded us of our reasons for being at GA,
- by the direction and care shown to all attendees by the co-moderators (CeCe and Tony),
- by the willingness of the denomination to look inward at past mistakes and both apologize and attempt to atone for those missteps and errors,
- by our denomination's willingness to identify and name national and global concerns, specifically the genocide happening in Gaza and Christian Nationalism occurring in the USA.

Additionally, it was a pleasure to represent the Donegal Presbytery with the other Presbytery attendees. Our many discussions were critical to understanding the history and current needs of PC(USA). The time we spent together as a group was invaluable to me personally.

Overall, my experience was an extremely positive one, and though I did not support every decision made, I did not disagree with any of those decisions. The discernment of God's will for our denomination was evident during the 227th General Assembly.

My General Assembly Experience by Ruling Elder Carl Barr

Thanks so much to Donegal Presbytery for giving me the opportunity to be a ruling elder commissioner to the 227th General Assembly. The experience of seeing how the Spirit works to bring together commissioners and advisory delegates to do the work of the mission and governance of the church is truly amazing. Add to that the opportunities for worship, the joining in fellowship over meals, and the meeting of others passionate about their faith, and you have a truly remarkable and memorable spiritual experience. I so appreciated, too, the opportunity to get to know the other commissioners and young adult advisory delegate from Donegal Presbytery and appreciate the support given by Erin and Sarah of our presbytery staff. I look forward to sharing more about the work of the 227th General Assembly in the future.

My General Assembly Experience by Rev. Dr. Betty Angelini

The theme for this year's 227th General Assembly was *Persevering Toward Wholeness* based on the text from Revelation 22: 1-7. Through worship, discernment and prayer filled leadership, the connectionalism with our triune God and other commissioners was palpable, as I believe all those present worked toward living into the vision created by the tree whose leaves heal the nations. As God's children gathered, I believe God was the light of the meeting, and Christ was always at the center. We discerned and voted on such challenging issues as a new organizational structure for the national office and the resulting changes and challenges that come with the unification, including the ending of the mission co-work ministry as we know it and the introduction of Global Ecumenical Partnerships, proposed changes to our constitution, including ways to complete the requirements to become a teaching elder, and how we define and live out our Christian relationships in the world not of the world. The Lord provided worship, leadership and advisory delegates, and table fellowship opportunities that praised God and gave sacred direction to participate, at God's invitation, in voting, to speak out about injustice and to begin to reestablish trust where those bonds of connectionalism and relationship had been broken. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Thank you for this faith growing opportunity. May we continue to persevere toward wholeness in our lives and community now.