

227th General Assembly Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin | June 22, 2026 - July 2nd,
2026



What happened. Key Issues. Strengthening
Connection

What is General Assembly?

Biennial Event

The General Assembly as an event occurs every two years.

It includes the gathering of committees who recommend actions to plenary sessions, opportunities to break bread through shared meals, educational opportunities, moments of public witness, and more.



What is General Assembly?

Council

As the highest council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the General Assembly is made up of **commissioners** from presbyteries, with teaching elders and ruling elders represented in equal numbers. **Young Adult Advisory Delegates**, **Theological Student Advisory Delegates**, and **Partner Advisory Delegates** also constitute the assembly.

These individuals gather for the business meetings of committees and plenary to discern the future of the church and make decisions that are implemented throughout the life of the PC(USA).



What is General Assembly?

Worshipping Body

As a worshipping body, the General Assembly offers a time when people from across the PC(USA) and beyond gather in their diversity as one. In worship, the General Assembly engages scripture, celebrates sacraments, and proclaims God's work in the world.



Where Does General Assembly Business Come From?

Overtures

An appeal to the General Assembly to take a particular action. Overture may propose an amendment to the PC(USA) Constitution or request a particular ruling by the GA or ask the GA to take actions regarding an issue before the church and the world. Overtures often start at the Session level and must be approved by a presbytery or synod and have concurrence by another presbytery or synod.

Where Does General Assembly Business Come From?

GA Appointed Committees & Commissions

Committees and Commissions may be formed as standing committees or serve as a “special committee” at the request of the GA because additional information is needed that requires work beyond the Assembly’s allotted time. These committees submit reports with recommendations to the General Assembly.

Our Work Together



The church is governed not by individuals acting alone but through councils composed of ruling elders and ministers of word and sacrament.

We are not to simply reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.

Decisions are reached following opportunity for discussion and discernment, and a majority shall govern.



Constitutional Amendments



More than a GA Vote!

The General Assembly cannot, by itself, amend most portions of the Constitution.

Amendments to the Book of Order come as overtures, if approved by GA, these are sent to presbyteries for ratification.

Presbyteries pray, deliberate, debate and vote.

Only when majority of presbyteries approve does amendment become part of Constitution.

Authoritative Interpretations

Not every constitutional question requires an amendment. The General Assembly can issue an Authoritative Interpretation of the Constitution.

AI's come as overtures, referrals, or constitutional questions posed to the Assembly. Most request for Ais are sent to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution.

Authoritative Interpretations do not change the text, but instead provide binding guidance concerning meaning, application or implementation.

AI's do not require presbytery ratification.

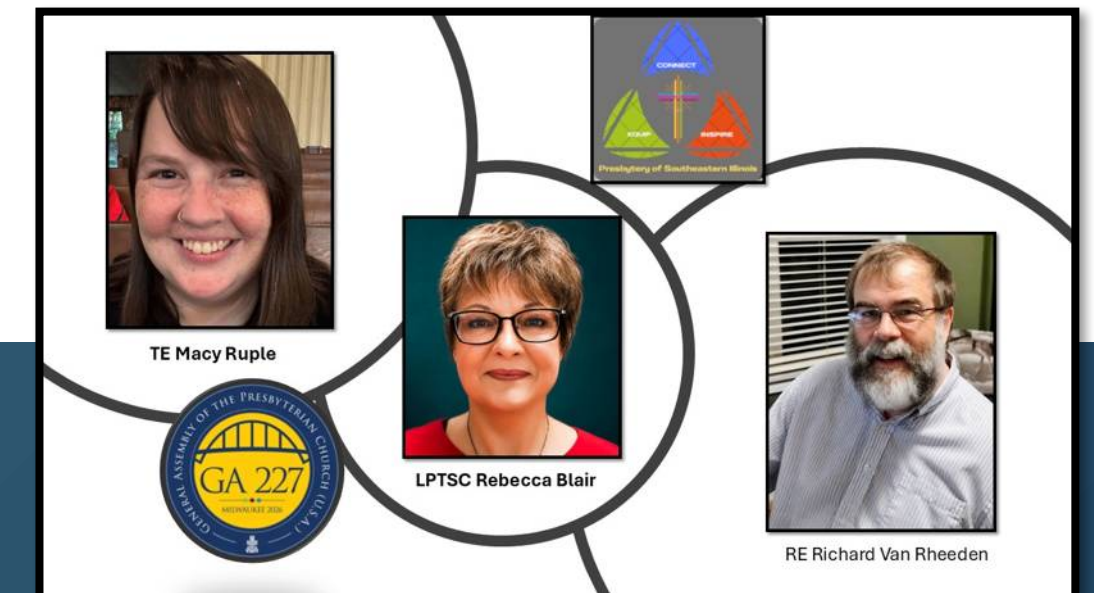
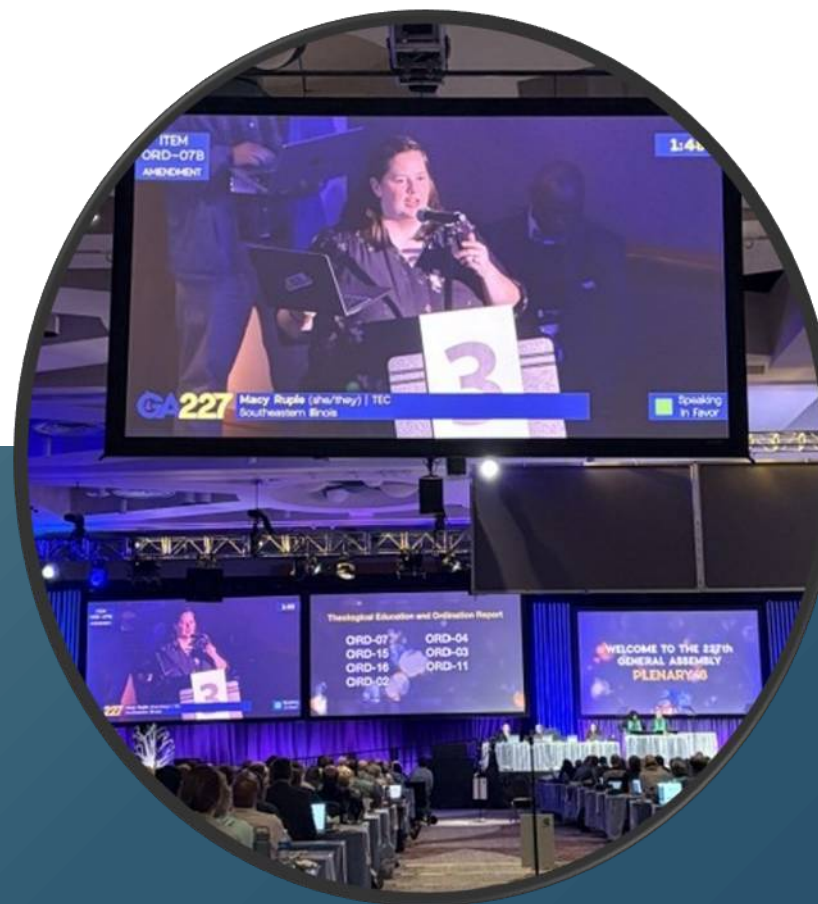
Book of Confessions

Amending the Book of Confessions is more difficult.

Proposed changes require approval by one General Assembly, ratification by two-thirds of the presbyteries, and final approval by the next General Assembly.

In practice, this can take as long as six years!!

Key Issues from General Assembly





Organizational Change for the PC(USA)

Organizational Changes in the PC (USA)

Presbyterian Life and Witness

Work Areas:

**Denominational Life and
Witness**

**Partnerships Within the
PC(USA)**

**Organizational Planning
and Operations**

Priorities

**Thriving synods and
presbyteries**

**Disciple formation and leader
development**

Life of the denomination

**Restorative justice and
witness**

Overtures

Organization for Mission

**Reinstating the
Immigration Attorney
Position**



PC(USA) Global Mission

PC(USA) Global Mission

● Restructure

Major reductions to mission co-worker positions

Financial constraints

Changing realities in global mission

● Effects & Response

Global partners criticized the process as abrupt and damaging to long-standing relationships.

Need for deeper theological reflection and not just allow financial pressures to determine future.

Congregations left wondering how to maintain meaningful global engagement and accountability.

Assembly received an unscripted apology for the handling of the dissolution

● Overtures

Review of World Mission restructuring approved (RIW-01, 369-98)

Seven-member commission: restorative, focused on truth-telling, reports to GA 2030.

Call for new missiological statement

Prohibiting non-disclosure covenants in employee relations



Theology & Ordination

Theology & Ordination

● Adaptive Change, Technical Fixes

The congregation is the foundational element of “church” and where membership resides.

Desire of many presbyteries to find a way to give voice and vote to immigrant fellowships and worshipping communities.

● Paths to Service

Conflicting ordinations for elders.

Disapproved ordaining Ruling Elders to serve mid council without serving on Session.

Commissioned Ruling Elder Voice and Vote at Presbytery

● Preparation for Ministry

CPM Training required every 3 years.

Background checks and vocational psych evals required for all inquirers .

Optional Senior Ordination Portfolio



Gender & Sexuality

Gender and Sexuality

● Access to Healthcare

Declare that the PC(USA) supports all individuals to have access to all medically necessary, evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare.

● Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging

PC(USA) Social Witness Policy

Creation of theological, biblical, and ethical framework and study guide to reflect PC(USA) commitment to full inclusion of all people in context of human sexuality, relationships and family.

● MDP and LGBTQIA Equity

Adding to Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) for churches if they are open to calling LGBTQIA person for pastoral position.



Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence

● Social Witness Policy

“The Algorithm and the Almighty: Navigating Artificial Intelligence Through a Reformed Lens”

Approved as amended (RUS-08)

● Ethical Framework in Use of AI

Directs all PC(USA) agencies to follow an ethical framework grounded in human dignity. Creates a permanent Advisory Committee on Technology and the Future and a 'Center for the Future' in the Office of Innovation. Study guide for congregations is forthcoming.

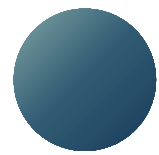
● Guardrails on Generative AI

YAAD-led amendment adding stronger guardrails on generative AI in ministry passed 246–210. 'Let us not let machines do our faithful work for us.'



Christian Nationalism

Christian Nationalism



PC(USA) Social Witness Policy Definition:

Christian nationalism is a political ideology that seeks to merge Christian identity with U.S. civic life and national identity.

Asserts that the United States was founded as a Christian nation and should continue to be governed according to what its proponents see as Christian values or biblical principles.

“Nationalism” emphasizes the importance of a “homeland” with a shared ethnic identity among its citizens.

Christian Nationalism becomes “white” when it suggests that those of northern European ancestry are inherently more capable, intelligent, moral, and able to lead — and are thus the only “true Americans” and “true Christians.”

Christian Nationalism

● Study

Urges all leaders and members of the PC(USA) to familiarize themselves with the ideology, practices, and goals of white Christian nationalism.

Study together the PC(USA) Social Witness Policy

● Examine National Symbols

Displayed on church property and in worship spaces, especially the U.S. flag, national and patriotic hymns sung in worship, Presentation of Colors in worship, and the propriety of national pride in relationship to the primacy of God in Christian worship.

● Statements from PC(USA)

Directs the Stated Clerk to use this policy and other statements of the General Assembly cited herein when relevant events or circumstances warrant a public response from the denomination.

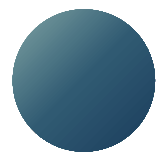
RUS-07, 'Standing Against White Christian Nationalism,' approved 459-25.

RUS-01: Book of Order amendment naming Christian nationalism a theological error, approved 458-18; new goes to presbyteries for ratification



Racial Equity and Justice

Racial Equity & Justice

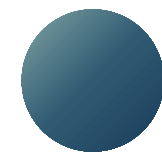


Special Committee on African Ecclesial Repair

Study harms experienced by African American Presbyterians in congregations, mid councils, and denominational structures.

Recommend methods for repairing harms.

Identify structural and relationship barriers that perpetuate harm.



PC(USA) and Race Report

Expand, assemble and centralize resources on anti-racism, diversity, equity, inclusion, White Christian nationalist and racial justice in one place.

Require anti-racism training every 36 months for teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, Christian Educators, those under care, ruling elders and councils.



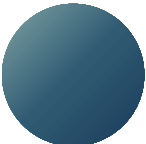
Israel & Genocide in Palestine

Israel & Genocide in Palestine

Affirming Kairos Palestine II: Faith in a Time of Genocide

New congregational study guide for use by churches, individuals, theological institutions, and presbyteries.

RIW-10 approved 447-21

 **Assembly also divested from Palantir Technologies and GE Aerospace.**

Genocide in Palestine

Recognizing that Israel has violated the international law prohibiting genocide.

Directs the Office of Public Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to and purchases from Israel; encourages boycott of products linked to violations of international law.

RIW-04 adopted 454-15



New Confession

New Confession



New Confession?

In 2022 the 225th General Assembly created a “special committee” to write a “new confession.”

They believed the PC(USA) to be in “status confessionis” or an age to confess the faith it professes in the face of world forces that threaten the gospel.

Confession process in G-6.03



227th General Assembly Action

Special Committee to be created to study and consider “New Confession” and rewrite as they deem wise. Reporting back to 2028 GA.

Inviting the whole church to study and consider the confession and report to the new Special Committee



New Co-Moderators



**Rev. Marta
Pumroy-Cordero**

&

**Rev. Dr.
Kristopher D.
Schondelmeyer**

Co-Moderator Kris Schondelmeyer will visit PSEI at the November 15 stated meeting



228th General Assembly 2028

San Juan Puerto Rico!!



THANK YOU

Request a copy of the presentation:

statedclerk@gmail.com