



The Start of Something Big

June 15, 2022

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This weekend is the start of something big! Not Father's Day...not festival season (that's already in full swing). It's still too early for Summerfest. Hmmm. Think bigger. Think nationally.

In case you missed it, starting on June 18 and continuing through the first week of July is the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)! [Insert wild applause, cheering sounds]. Your Presbytery of Milwaukee Commissioners Angela Madison (Ruling Elder) and Carol Wickersham (Teaching Elder) are ready to join this denomination-wide discernment process, seeking God's will for the Church. Your Stated Clerk Christian Boyd also serves a prominent role with the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, helping to ensure that our process is fair, equitable, and inclusive for all voices. Discernment work can be messy, so we call on trusted advisors to keep us on track. I will participate as a Committee Assistant for the Addressing Violence in the US Committee, for which Angela is the Vice Moderator. Carol serves on the Racial and Gender Justice Committee.

Because of COVID, we are using a hybrid model for the General Assembly, and that means it's coming to a computer screen near you! Be sure to join for the **opening worship service on Saturday, June 18, at 10 am**, with The Rev. Gregory Bentley, GA 224 Co-Moderator, preaching. A special Juneteenth Worship Service will follow the next day, also at 10 am, with the General Assembly Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II preaching. All Worship Services will be Livestreamed at the [GA225 Homepage](#) and [Spirit of GA](#) Facebook page.

On Monday, it will be time for our committees to buckle down into the hard, but holy, work of considering overtures for action that have come from all over the country through our presbyteries, with reports or input from our congregations, national staff and ecumenical and global partners. The committees will work in person in Louisville in 4-day tranches, before convening again online as the full plenary during the first week of July. Check out the full docket [here](#), including the listing of committees. If you want to drill down into the specific overtures coming to GA this year, [PC-Biz](#) is the place to go. All Plenaries, Committee Sessions, & Special Events will also be livestreamed on the GA225 Homepage. It's like C-Span for the church!

Please keep all the commissioners, staff, and support people in your prayers. In addition to the immense logistics and technology challenges, the work of the assembly is grueling, provocative, and in some cases heart-wrenching. Their actions and our response can literally be lifesaving, as we face issues of violence, bullying, inclusion, climate change, racism, and immigration. Their actions and our response will guide our church into the future, as the assembly explores recommendations for our vision and way forward, changes to our Book of Order, theological education, and our funding streams.

May their work align us with the mind of Christ!

