



Transitions at the PC(USA)

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The Presbyterian Church (USA) is undergoing transitions just as the presbytery and many of our churches are. As any of the churches searching for a new pastor can tell you, in 2023 the Church Leadership Connection implemented a total overhaul of how pastors and churches connect with one another. You may also be aware of the major revisions the Board of Pensions made to the medical benefits plan in 2025. A more significant change taking place, tho, is the restructuring of the 2 central agencies of the national church.

The 225th General Assembly of the PC(USA) took steps in 2022 to help guide the denomination on a path forward in this time of great change. A Unification Commission consisting of pastors, presbytery leaders, and young adult advisory delegates was appointed to bring together the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly as a unified agency. This is a huge task that is still underway. In place of the 2 previous agencies, an Interim Unified Agency has been formed, while the Commission continues to reshape the way the denomination will finally come together. For more information on the Unification Commission, visit the PC(USA) [website](#). The website also shares this:

The new Interim Unified Agency is dedicated to pursuing mission and ministry priorities. Led by the Rev. Jihyun Oh, Executive Director and Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the new agency works to support mid councils, leader development, unifying ministry work, reparative justice, life of the communion, and strategic partnerships.

The national offices are experiencing a turn over of staff as well. Several long time and much loved people have retired or moved onto new ministries. As others step into those roles, they frequently have the word “interim” in their titles, as future staffing of the new agency has yet to be determined. Some of the positions have been eliminated or combined. Not surprisingly, all of these changes are challenging to navigate, not only for those in the Interim Unified Agency, but also for MidCouncil staff, churches, and others communicating with the national offices.

GA has other commissions at work, too. One is looking at Per Capita and Financial Sustainability. Another is reevaluating the requirements for the ordained ministry of word and sacrament. At the same time, technology is being revised. The PC(USA) recently rolled out an updated website and other behind the scenes systems are in need of updates when time and resources allow.

Transitions are difficult. We must let go of the familiar to take on the new way of being God is calling us to. The national church and the presbytery both need to be more nimble in these changing times. Please be in prayer for the Interim Unified Agency, the Unification Commission, the staff, and our presbytery as we discover what comes next.

Grace and Peace.

Lisa