



News in Brief

Saturday | June 27, 2026

The Rev. Jihyun Oh shares potential highlights as the 227th General Assembly gathers in Milwaukee

"My expectation is we will also faithfully discern, pray, worship and listen to one another," said Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness. "My greatest hope and expectation is for the spirit that was present in the last assembly, with convictions that led [commissioners and advisory delegates] to different positions. They looked at one another and said, 'there's still room for you in the denomination.'"

"That said, we have a lot of historically contentious issues coming before the assembly," Oh said. "Anything involving Israel-Palestine continues



The Rev. Jihyun Oh works with onsite staff on the last day of committee meetings during GA227 in Milwaukee. (Photos by Rich Copley)

to be an issue for conversation." The highest council of the church must talk about that region of the world "while upholding our interreligious commitment" to people in the Jewish faith "and being clear about religious nationalism, Christian nationalism and Zionism," she said.

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE | All events are listed in Central Daylight Time (CDT)

8:00 A.M.
REGISTRATION
OPENS

9:30 A.M.
COMMUNITY
DAY

NOON
***GA DAILY WITH**
FRED TANGEMAN

2:00 P.M.
TOWN SQUARE

7:00 A.M.
DESSERT
RECEPTION

***WATCH ON THE GA227 HOMEPAGE**

Unification Commission wraps up four years of work with one final public meeting in Milwaukee

After four years of arduous work unifying the former Office of the General Assembly and Presbyterian Mission Agency into Presbyterian Life & Witness, members of the Unification Commission met Friday to take a few actions and hear a few reports ahead of plenary sessions of the 227th General Assembly.

Following worship, UC member the Rev. Dr. Dave Davis moved that an apology be offered to UC member Ruling Elder José Rosa-Rivera for disparaging comments made during a meeting of the General Assembly Operations Committee against Puerto Rico, which with commissioners'



UC member José Rosa-Rivera shares a message of appreciation from presbytery & synod leaders in Puerto Rico. Photo by Rich Copley

approval this week will host the 228th General Assembly (2028). The motion passed unanimously.

Later, Rosa-Rivera shared a brief message of appreciation from presbytery and synod leaders in Puerto Rico, who said they extended "our heartfelt gratitude for the confidence you have placed in us."

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Community Day will set the tone for gathering in Milwaukee

If there's one thing Kate Trigger Duffert is looking forward to as commissioners and advisory delegates gather in Milwaukee for the in-person portion of the 227th General Assembly, it's Community Day on Saturday.

"I'm looking forward to what that day can bring to this assembly format — to learn for future planning and to being a part of it along with everyone else experiencing the public action and

the Town Square, and getting at that element of being a community," said Trigger Duffert, Director of General Assembly Planning in Presbyterian Life & Witness. "It's an opportunity for groups throughout the church to be in one space at one time, see the scope of ministries happening, make personal connections and build relationships, then go home and be connected to do the work in their own context."



Kate Trigger Duffert, director of General Assembly Planning. Photo by Rich Copley.

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Global Language Resources helps make General Assembly accessible to diverse participants

Making sure that diverse voices can be engaged with the 227th General Assembly is a top priority of Global Language Resources as the denomination gathers in Milwaukee.

The five-member team led by GLR Manager Stephanie Vasquez has been working for months to ensure that people whose preferred language is Spanish or Korean can follow the proceedings in person and online.



Stephanie Vasquez works with contractors who provided live interpretation for the online committee meetings at GA227. Photo by Rich Copley.

The team, which is part of the Administrative Services Group (ASG), has contractors on-site in Milwaukee to help with various activities, including orientation sessions for Young Adult Advisory Delegates, known as YAADs, and Partner Advisory Delegates, or PADs.

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Presbyterians to gather for gun violence prevention witness

As Presbyterians gather to discern the future actions and statements of the church during the 227th General Assembly, many will step outside the meeting halls on Saturday to bear public witness against one of the nation's most persistent forms of violence: gun violence.

"Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence" will bring together assembly participants, local Presbyterians, survivors and advocates for prayer, education and a march through downtown Milwaukee.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Central Time and is coordinated by the Presbytery of Milwaukee and the Office of Public Witness of Presbyterian Life & Witness. Participants will



Ann Gibbs (left) & Jimmy Hawkins (right) tour the route for Saturday morning's walk. Photos by Rich Copley.

gather at Pere Marquette Park, across from the Hyatt Hotel, for a Guns to Gardens blacksmith demonstration and remarks from national and local speakers. Around 10 a.m., attendees will walk approximately one mile round-trip to Milwaukee City Hall, encircle the building in prayer and return to the Baird Center. Those unable to participate in the walk can take part in related activities, resources and video presentations in the Baird Center North lobby.

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Looking back to the last time Milwaukee hosted the General Assembly

On Saturday, the in-person gathering of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will officially begin. Many of those traveling to Milwaukee for the in-person gathering will arrive on Friday, in time to visit the Town Square. Plenary sessions will then take place in Milwaukee from Sunday through Thursday, July 2.

It has been 34 years since the General Assembly last met in Milwaukee. The Presbyterian Historical Society looks back to 1992 to explore the decisions made, the leaders elected, and the key takeaways from the last GA held in Milwaukee. undant escid quatio eatum illaniet aribus que.



Outgoing moderator leads communion service. From the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society, 13C; 1992 GA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Photo by Ron Rice.

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Venezuela experienced major damage from back-to-back earthquakes this week. (Photo from the Lutheran World Federation)

PC(USA) responding to Venezuela's earthquakes

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing support and prayers for its siblings in Christ in Venezuela, where twin earthquakes have reportedly taken nearly 600 lives and caused widespread damage.

More than 4,000 people are estimated to have been injured as a result of the 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes that occurred earlier this

week, just 39 seconds apart, collapsing structures and necessitating ongoing search-and-rescue operations.

"We're carrying out an extraordinary effort across the country," Health Minister Carlos Alvarado stated in a Bloomberg News report.

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Many assembly participants danced between worship and plenary during the 226th General Assembly in 2024.

Photo by Rich Copley

227th General Assembly offers meaningful worship for assembly-goers and beyond

Hundreds of Presbyterians are descending on Milwaukee for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s 227th General Assembly. The national biannual gathering represents the denomination's highest governing body, and the primary focus of the week-long event will be discussing and voting on dozens of items of business submitted by presbyteries and others from all over the country. The decisions made by the assembly will shape the denomination in the years ahead.

However, matters of governance are not the only meaningful work assembly participants will have the chance to participate in. The week will also offer multiple opportunities for worship both during the assembly sessions themselves and within congregations on Sunday morning, both locally and across the country.

The Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, Associate for Worship within Presbyterian Life & Witness, noted that “the whole assembly will be steeped in worship from the online committee meetings to Sunday morning in local congregations to services that take place throughout the week of plenary.”

The General Assembly Worshipping Planning Team, which includes Gambrell and the co-moderators of the 226th General Assembly — the Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson — has spent the months leading up to the assembly working to organize four worship services that will take place throughout the week.

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