



News in Brief

Wednesday | July 1, 2026

Overture on reviewing the restructuring of World Mission sees a substitute motion adopted by GA227

Even though they labored until 10:30 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, commissioners and advisory delegates to the 227th General Assembly could not complete their work on RIW-01, Call to Review the Restructuring of the PC(USA) World Mission.

Commissioners did decide, by a vote of 375-88, to replace the main motion of the review with a substitute motion calling for the appointment of a seven-member commission to, among other things:

- Review decision-making processes employed and actions taken by a handful of entities that resulted in the elimination of World Mission and



Moderator the Rev. CeCe Armstrong advises the Assembly to “discern the will of God for the people of God.” Photo by Rich Copley.

the termination of most appointed mission co-workers

- Determine the extent to which the decision-making processes and actions employed by those entities conformed to or violated policy mandates of the General Assembly

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

8:00 A.M.
GA REGISTRATION OPENS

8:30 A.M.
PLENARY 10

12 NOON
* GA DAILY

1:30 P.M.
PLENARY 11

5:30 P.M.
MODERATOR
CANDIDATE
MEET & GREET

7:00 P.M.
PLENARY 12

***WATCH ON THE GA227 HOMEPAGE**

Assembly addresses ordination, AI, Christian nationalism and a new confession

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) spent much of Tuesday afternoon wrestling with questions of ministry preparation, artificial intelligence, Christian nationalism and the readiness of a new confession of faith. Young adults and U.S. veterans offered passionate testimonies that helped guide the Assembly. Commissioners also confirmed two seminary presidents, Dr. Travis Frampton as president of the University of Dubuque and University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and the Rev. Dr. Maisha Handy as president of McCormick Theological Seminary, and advanced a proposal for continued work on a possible new confession. After debate that carried over from Tuesday



Commissioners and advisory delegates gather for the eighth plenary on the afternoon of June 30. Photo by Jim Deweese.

morning's plenary, ORD-07, which offered new ordination pathways, was approved after lengthy debate on the report of the Task Force on the Theology and Practice of Ordination.

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Morning plenary brings celebrations, somber remembrance and a whole lot of ORD-07

Nearly an hour and a half of Tuesday morning's 2½-hour plenary was devoted to the slow process of considering each component recommendation within ORD-07's Ordination Task Force report, continuing the work where the Assembly left off on Monday evening and ending before the final report could be discussed and voted on. Luckily, the first hour of the plenary gave commissioners and other Assembly-goers an opportunity for more lively engagement.

The gathering began with a powerful word from Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, bringing greetings from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, which she serves as



The seventh plenary of the 227th General Assembly takes place the morning of June 30. (Photo by Jim Deweese).

president and general secretary.

"You, PC(USA), have shown us that doctrine and discipleship belong together, and what we confess on Sunday must be lived on Monday," she said.

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Three honored with Women of Faith Awards

Very early in the morning, the women rose.

Eager to draw from the well of the close-knit community who shaped and formed them, faithful women — and all who would honor their often-unsung legacy of Christian witness, service and leadership — joyfully gathered to honor the 2026 Women of Faith Awardees at the biennial Women of Faith Breakfast.

Established in 1986, the Women of Faith Awards recognize women whose lives demonstrate ongoing dedication to justice, inclusion and compassion.

Presbyterian Women Inc., the women's organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — represented at the breakfast by Pam Snyder,



Blanca Estrella Otaño-Rivera, Selma Jackson and Adele Langworthy (from left) are honored at the breakfast. (Photo by Jim Deweese)

moderator of PW's Board of Directors, and Dr. Susan Jackson-Dowd, executive director, among others — has been a partner with Presbyterian Life & Witness and its predecessor agencies from the proud tradition's beginnings.

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Shall we gather at the river?

Using the metaphor of a tree on both sides of the river, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Vandiver encouraged the attendees of the 227th General Assembly to strive to overcome the divisions that are apparent in the world today.

Vandiver, senior pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation (ELCA) in Washington, D.C., preached during an ecumenical worship service that preceded formal business on Tuesday at the Grand Ballroom of the Baird Center.

The sermon was the centerpiece of a service that also included prayers by ecumenical leaders, uplifting songs, such as "Shall We Gather at the River," and the collection of an offering for Common Ground, a multiracial, multifait nonpartisan organization working to create positive change in the Milwaukee area.



The Rev. Dr. Kevin Vandiver delivered the sermon at the ecumenical worship service. (Photo by Rich Copley)

"Merciful God, you gather us from the four corners and the farthest poles of the earth," said the Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock, general secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, in the opening portion of the service.

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The Rev. Destini Hodges is welcomed to the GA Daily studio

Following yet another full plenary session on Tuesday morning, the Rev. Destini Hodges dashed over to the studio to be interviewed on GA Daily, the news program of the 227th General Assembly hosted daily by Fred Tangeman.

Watch their conversation [here](#).

Manager for the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program in the Leader Development area for Presbyterian Life & Witness, Hodges was asked to comment on how the church is supporting young adults in both traditional and nontraditional forms of ministry.

Hodges began by describing the mission and evolution of the YAV program, an ecumenical,



The Rev. Destini Hodges, manager for the Young Adult Volunteer program, is a guest on GA Daily on Tuesday. Photo by Randy Hobson.

faith-based year of service for young people ages 19–30 in sites across the United States and around the world.

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Reimagined worship serves people where they are

Church has been showing up in all sorts of ways across the United States, and 888 of them are part of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“When we hit our goal, there will be a huge celebration,” the Rev. Michael Gehrling told a crowd during a luncheon on Tuesday.

Staff of the 1001 NWC program and directors of four of those nontraditional but passionate places of worship shared updates and stories of hope.

Before graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary, the Rev. Mark Fraley spent decades as a community organizer. He knew how to build relationships with people on the ground.



The Rev. Michael Gehrling (right) of 1001 New Worshiping Communities speaks at the lunch event. The event included presentations from (left to right) the Revs. Rafael Viana, Erin Angeli, Raafat Girgis and Mark Fraley. (Photo by Rich Copley)

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