



News in Brief

Monday | June 29, 2026



The Billy Mitchell Scottish Pipe Band led the traditional opening of the second plenary of GA227 on June 28. Photo by Rich Copley.

Bagpipes, brats, budgets and benedictories

Stirring bagpipes and pulsing drums opened the second plenary of the 227th General Assembly (2026), a welcome wake-up call for any attendees who might have been contemplating a post-lunch nap following a full morning of Sunday worship with Milwaukee-area congregations.

cheers. “Wow, you look marvelous.” Following an opening prayer by Theological Student Advisory Delegate José Torres, the afternoon’s business — which included no official business, only a foretaste of the week ahead — got underway.

“Welcome to the 227th General Assembly,” intoned Moderator the Rev. CeCe Armstrong to boisterous

[READ MORE](#) »

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

8:00 A.M.
GA REGIS-
TRATION

8:30 A.M.
WORSHIP &
COMMUNION

9:30 A.M.
PLENARY 4

NOON
***GA DAILY WITH**
FRED TANGEMAN

1:30 P.M.
PLENARY 5

7:00 P.M.
PLENARY 6

***WATCH ON THE GA227 HOMEPAGE**

A show of hands, please



Technical difficulties during plenary meetings on June 28 lead to a “show of hands” vote on the consent agenda.

Photo by Rich Copley.

Technology considerations meant that commissioners and advisory delegates to the 227th General Assembly had to use their voices and their arms to vote during the evening plenary session Sunday rather than relying on their fingers to cast their votes.

But steady efforts by the Moderators of the 226th General Assembly, the Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, helped the body wrap up its business during the Assembly’s third plenary about 20 minutes early.

[READ MORE](#)



The Rev. Jihyun Oh was a guest of the “GA Daily” talk show on Sunday, June 28, at GA227 in Milwaukee. Photo by Randy Hobson.

The Rev. Jihyun Oh stops by the GA Daily studio

On Sunday, it was the Rev. Jihyun Oh’s turn to share her perspective during GA Daily, hosted each day by Fred Tangeman. Watch their 24-minute conversation here. Oh is introduced at the 3:15 mark.

Oh is Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness. Tangeman asked her about the genesis of the theme of GA227, “Persevering Toward Wholeness.”

That theme emerged a few years ago “in conversations around the agency and around the church,” Oh said. When the World Communion of Reformed Churches held its 27th General Council last fall in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the theme was “Persevere in Your Witness.”

[READ MORE](#)



From puff puffs to Presbyterian polity



The Rev. Elizabeth McCord (left) and the Rev. Jackie Rodriguez address worshippers. Photo by Jim Deweese

“What a special day!”

With those words, the Rev. Elizabeth McCord welcomed worshippers to West Granville Presbyterian Church on Sunday as the

congregation opened its doors to commissioners and visitors attending the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Not only do I get to welcome our wonderful congregants here in person and joining us virtually, but we have Presbyterians from across the country visiting today,” said McCord, the congregation’s interim pastor. She quickly broadened that welcome. “Here at West Granville, we have Presbyterians from around the world every Sunday.”

That simple observation captured what General Assembly visitors encountered throughout the morning: a congregation where global Christianity is not merely a profession of faith but an everyday reality.

[READ MORE](#) »

General Assembly guests find stories, inspiration and brats at Calvary Presbyterian Church



Elders from Calvary Presbyterian Church gathered worshippers before leading them to the congregation. Photo by Kristen Gaydos

If you’ve ever arrived at a home and been immediately embraced by hosts you’d never met, then you know what it is like to walk through the doors of Calvary Presbyterian Church in downtown Milwaukee.

That was the welcome on Sunday for dozens of delegates and guests attending the 227th General Assembly in the city. Calvary, along with various area churches, welcomed the out-of-town guests.

Before a word was said, guests knew Calvary had a story to tell.

[READ MORE](#) »

Living Hope Presbyterian is ‘best of both worlds’ for senior living community and church



*The Rev. Dr. Will Houts delivers remarks at Living Hope Presbyterian Church in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.
Photo by Rich Copley*

A few miles from downtown Milwaukee in the suburban community of Menomonee Falls, Living Hope Presbyterian Church is tucked away in the Dickson Hollow Senior Living Community, where Bible studies and services are enriched with deep thinking and the lifelong experience of residents.

The church, which on Sunday welcomed guests from the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), draws most of its attendees from within the community, with about 30% coming from elsewhere.

“We have lots of folks who are older but young at heart,” said the Rev. Dr. Will Houts, Living Hope’s pastor.

[READ MORE >>](#)

National Black Presbyterian Caucus honors the Rev. J. Oscar McCloud



Mary Newbern-Williams and Greg Bentley present an award to the Rev. J. Oscar McCloud. Photo by Emily Enders Odom

For a man who has dedicated his life to guiding others, an exuberant evening designed to recognize his faithful service and enduring impact became yet another teachable moment for the Rev. J. Oscar McCloud.

Dispensing hard-won wisdom born of struggle to many whose lives he helped — or would soon help — shape, McCloud embodied the very qualities praised by his presenters.

An ordained PC(USA) minister, civil rights worker and administrator, McCloud recently published his memoir, “I Dared to Hope,” just two days before his 90th birthday on April 11.

After a childhood as a sharecropper in rural Georgia, McCloud attended Boggs Academy and Warren Wilson College before graduating with a degree in sociology from Berea College.

[READ MORE >>](#)

Robert P. Jones urges mid council leaders to address Christian nationalism

The Presbyterian Foundation hosted a breakfast on Sunday morning for PC(USA) mid council leaders as a precursor to 227th General Assembly plenary sessions, which began Sunday afternoon. The event's featured speaker was Robert P. Jones, who gave a talk titled "Christian Nationalism, Democracy, and America's Identity Crisis." In it, he offered both formal data and personal anecdotes encouraging attendees to confront Christian nationalism with urgency and hope.

Jones is president and founder of the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and author of several books, including his upcoming "Backslide: Reclaiming a Faith and a Nation After the Christian Turn Against Democracy" (September



PRRI president Robert P. Jones discussed an urgency to confront Christian Nationalism. Photo by Gregg Brekke.

2026) and his most recent book, "The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future," which provided the basis for much of his talk.

[READ MORE](#)


Wishes and worship prep at GA227

The stage has been set, the plenary hall prepared and the wishing trees decorated with their leaves — all that's left is getting some practice in.

While commissioners and advisory delegates set off to nearby congregations Sunday morning for worship, committee moderators and the GA planning team spent a couple hours on stage in the grand ballroom, setting podium heights and walking through a dummy script together. The production team has been hard at work since Thursday, when the ballroom was transformed into a hall fit for plenary — the second session of which kicks off Sunday afternoon. The first in-person plenary session will run from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Central Time on Sunday, with the third plenary set for 7 p.m. Central Time.



The production team's set-up for plenary continued on Sunday. Photo by McKenna Britton

Before the deliberations and discernment can truly start, the production team must set the lights just right, make sure the teleprompters can be read by moderators of varying heights, ensure audio is working — the list goes on.

[READ MORE](#)
