



News in Brief

Tuesday | June 30, 2026

Beyond changing families, churches and institutions

Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted Monday to let congregations signal their openness to calling an LGBTQIA+ pastor, advanced the development of a sweeping new study on sexuality and family, and received an unscripted apology for the handling of Presbyterian World Mission's dissolution.

During a lengthy discussion on gender, sexuality and call processes, commissioners considered GEN-06, an item from the Committee on Gender and Sexuality Justice directing the PC(USA)'s Church Leadership Connection to add an optional feature to the Ministry Discernment Profile allowing congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ pastor.

Responding to repeated questions, the Rev. Ashley Birt of the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+



The fifth plenary session of the 227th General Assembly started the afternoon of Monday, June 29. Photo by Kristen Gaydos.

Equity (ACQ+E) explained that the proposal was not a mandatory checkbox and would be developed collaboratively with the Church Leadership Connection and partner organizations. The intent, Birt said, was to provide greater clarity for candidates and congregations, helping candidates identify churches whose values align with their own while preventing unnecessary harm.

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

8:00 A.M.
GA REGIS-
TRATION

8:30 A.M.
ECUMENICAL
WORSHIP

9:30 A.M.
PLENARY 7

NOON
*GA DAILY WITH
FRED TANGEMAN

1:30 P.M.
PLENARY 8

7:00 P.M.
PLENARY 9

***WATCH ON THE GA227 HOMEPAGE**

Overtures on racism, gender-affirming care are approved Monday

During the Monday morning plenary, commissioners to the 227th General Assembly approved several pieces of business from the Racial Justice Committee regarding racism. The Assembly also approved a measure regarding gender-affirming healthcare sent by the Gender and Sexuality Justice Committee.

Commissioners approved with amendments several recommendations of the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race concerning racism and white supremacy.

The measure mandates tracking General Assembly actions relating to racism dating back to reunion in 1983. It also directs that all who seek to serve the church have adequate language translation.



Commissioners discern issues related to racial justice, gender and sexuality during plenary 4 on June 29. (Photo by Rich Copley)

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GA commissioners and advisory delegates put in a bit of overtime Monday night

The Committee on Constitutional Interpretation continued to present overtures to the 227th General Assembly on Monday night, opening with CON-07, On Removing Required Participation in the Board of Pensions Medical Plan.

The committee recommended disapproval, and commissioners did just that, voting it down 435-42.

Then commissioners turned around and approved with near unanimity three requests for authoritative interpretation, CON-11, CON-12 and CON-14.

They then turned to CON-10, On Requiring Ministers of Word and Sacrament to be Monogamous. Committee Moderator the Rev. Miriam Hollar said committee members ultimately decided they needed “greater understanding of these issues in order to make a full decision.”



Committee leaders the Rev. Miriam Hollar and the Rev. Joseph Genau finalize a report to the Assembly June 29. (Photo by Jim Deweese)

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Walking with the Moderators

Portraying Cleopas and Cleopas' wife as suggested in Luke's account of the Walk to Emmaus, the Rev. Tony Larson and the Rev. CeCe Armstrong, Moderators of the 226th General Assembly, took a road trip during worship at the 227th General Assembly Monday morning at the Baird Center in Milwaukee.

"Emmaus is going to have to be safe enough," Cleopas told his wife. "We can get there and start over, I guess."

"Start over? He's dead. Christ died," his wife replied. "It's hard to start over when all I can see is the cross and his face. ... Most men weren't there at the end, but I was. The women were. We stood at the foot of the cross and watched him die, and I've been watching him die every time I close my eyes."

"I was afraid," her husband said.



The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, Moderators of GA226, led worship on Monday, June 29. (Photo by Rich Copley)

"I know you were. I'm not angry — just tired, so very tired of being afraid and sad at the exact same time," the wife said. But "Jesus never said, 'follow me and nothing bad will happen.'"

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PL&W breakfast offers 'glimpses of God's wholeness'

Before the business of the Assembly on Monday morning, GA227 participants gathered in the Hilton's Crystal Ballroom to enjoy breakfast and fellowship and to learn more about Presbyterian Life & Witness' vision, purpose and work. In her greeting, the Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of PL&W, invited attendees to witness "glimpses of God's wholeness" through testimonies from several ministries.

Oh referenced Exodus 33, in which Moses asks to see God's full glory, and God explains that no one can look directly upon God's face and live.



Breakfast is held at the Hilton's Crystal Ballroom on Monday, June 29. (Photo by Kristen Gaydos)

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‘Fierce, fearless and fashionable’ the Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett invigorates crowd



The Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett speaks to the crowd at a dinner held in her honor on Monday night. (Photo by Rich Copley)

On a night when Presbyterians gathered at the Baird Center to honor the Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett for her service to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Moffett gave a gift back to them by pouring out a spirit of encouragement.

Moffett, former President and Executive Director of PMA, began her remarks with a nod to the Rev. Dr. Felipe N. Martínez and Cristi Scott Ligon, who were co-moderators of the Unification Commission, and to the Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W), for the hard work of unification.

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Spiritual practices for ruling elders, speed-dating style

Spirits ran high — even as time ran low — during the lunch break on Monday as some 100 ruling elders gathered for both nutritional and spiritual sustenance amid the rigorous demands of an Assembly schedule.

“I can’t keep ministering to the people without filling myself up,” said Susan Sumrall, a ruling elder at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi, who has served as Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Mississippi for 10 years.

“It’s like the water pitcher on this table,” she said. “There’s no more water until you refill it. I have to personally look for refilling. That’s why I haven’t missed one of these lunches in 10 years.”

Sumrall came to the right place.



The ruling elder luncheon was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Monday, June 29, in Milwaukee. (Photo by Rich Copley)

Following a brief greeting from the Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness, who thanked those gathered for “saying yes to being a ruling elder,” the luncheon’s host, Martha Miller, set the tone.

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Presbytery of Milwaukee's the Rev. Dr. Ann Gibbs declares Deb Davies 'hero of GA'



The Rev. Dr. Ann Gibbs of the Committee on Local Arrangements is the guest on GA Daily on Monday, June 29. (Photo by Kristen Gaydos)

Monday's GA Daily featured a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Ann Gibbs, presbyter for ministry vitality for the Presbytery of Milwaukee, who played an integral role in organizing this year's General Assembly as part of the Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA). One could nearly see the wind in Gibbs' hair as she blew in for the conversation amid her ongoing flurry of activity to ensure all Assembly attendees feel cared for and welcomed.

If you haven't caught it yet, GA Daily is a 30-minute midday talk show hosted by Fred Tangeman, a member of the communications ministry within Presbyterian Life & Witness. GA Daily follows morning plenary and each episode offers a brief news roundup in addition to an interview with a special guest who serves some significant role in relation to the Assembly.

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The PC(USA) is still home to more than 1 million members



Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church is a PC(USA) church in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. (Photo by Rich Copley)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) remains a denomination of more than 1 million members.

Total reported membership for 2025 was 1,019,003, according to a report prepared for commissioners and advisory delegates to the 227th General Assembly by the Rev. Manuel D. Silva-Esterrich, manager for Call Process Support and Statistics, and Dr. Sean Payne, manager of Research Services.

The report shows a loss of 26,845 members from 2024, a net loss of about 2.6%, a significantly lower rate of loss than in recent years, when the average annual loss of the previous 10 years was 4.6%.

In 2025, there were 8,304 PC(USA) congregations, 128 fewer than in 2024, a decrease of 1.5%.

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YAADs to GA227: If you care about the future, listen to us now



YAADs gathered for a class photo on Friday, June 26.
(Photo by Kristen Gaydos)

During the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Milwaukee, the church is benefiting from the presence of nearly 90 young adults between the ages of 18 and 22 who are giving of their time and energy as Young Adult Advisory Delegates.

YAADs are selected and supported by their presbyteries, participate in GA committees with full voice and vote, and lend their voices and perspectives to advise commissioners during plenary. They are often celebrated as tangible representations of the future of the church.

Presbyterian News Service sent a request to all of this year's YAADs for anyone interested to come and share their own hopes and concerns for the assembly and for the church. The YAADs who showed up to the conversation came from different places, bringing different histories with the church and holding a variety of perspectives. But they shared a clear message for the church: We are not just the future — we are the church here and now, and if you care about the future, don't wait to listen to us.

"I don't know the exact number, but the median age without YAADs would probably be somewhere in the 60s. And to be quite blunt with you, they don't have as much time left in the church as we do," said Alexandra Klemp-North, of Winnebago Presbytery. "Our decisions about the future and our insights are — I don't want to say more important or more impactful, but carry more weight for our futures."

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