

## Summary of GA (2022) actions for mid councils

Divided into groupings of 1) studies, 2) things to be aware of and 3) actions for mid councils (with recognition that some of these items of GA business have actions in multiple areas) – and listing just the parts of the business item that relate to mid councils

### 1) Studies

**ECU-02**, [Explore a Global Covenant Agreement \(GCA\) to Use as a Formula for Establishing Unique Relationships with Other Denominations](#)

**ECU-05**, [Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries](#)

**ECU-06**, [Statement Denouncing Antisemitism and Islamophobia](#)

**ENV-02**, [Investing in a Green Future](#)

**ENV-05**, [On Reducing the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) Carbon Imprint](#)

**INT-05**, [Seeking Hope Amid Despair in Central America](#)

**INT-18**, [Study, Prayer, and Action to Promote Peace in Ethiopia](#)

**MOV-01**, [Guiding Statement from the 2020 Vision Team](#)

**VIOL-06**, [Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform](#)

6. ....[PMA also] to produce a video which addresses the concerns and issues of this resolution for use by congregations and mid councils for their use in study or advocacy.

### 2) Things to be aware of

– i.e. things mid councils may be asked about or called/urged/encouraged to do

**FIN-01**, [Special Offerings](#)

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: mid councils to use 25% - 12.5 percent presbytery/12.5 percent synod;**

**FIN-07**, [Presbyterian Foundation](#)

**Foundation directed to lead and encourage Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, mid councils, and other ministries to learn and promote best practices and provide support in the areas of wealth transfer and church property issues.**

**FIN-10**, [Align in Mission, Purpose, and the Use of Resources: Report of the Special Committee on Per-Capita Based Funding and National Church Financial Sustainability](#) – a commission to unify OGA and PMA, and a Funding Model Development Team to experiment with ways to fund councils above the session

**Commission to unify OGA and PMA is to consult with mid councils (and others) – new organization for mission to be presented to GA in 2026.**

FIN-13, [Per Capita Apportionment Rate](#)

GA per capita: \$9.85 for 2023, and \$9.80 for 2024.

GA-MC-15, [Format for the 226th GA](#)

GA in 2024 to be on-line committees and in-person plenary – in Salt Lake

GA-PAP-03, [Session Annual Statistical Report Regarding Age Categories](#)

session stat report (and other things) to use these new age categories:

Change
Age Distribution of Members
17 and Under
18–25
26–40
41–55
56–70
71 and Over

GA-PAP-20, [Adding Financial Questions to the Session Annual Statistical Report](#)

Session annual stat report to ask for (much more substantial) financial info – see long list in action!

HSB-02, [Mental Health Ministry](#)

3. PMA commended for .... holding a summit on mental health ministry (Louisville, February 2019), establishing a grant process and awarding grants for the furthering of mental health ministry, supporting the formation of a nationwide network, creating a website to share information and encourage network sign-up, sponsoring a churchwide mental health survey to lay a foundation for further action recommendations, and reporting back to the 224th General Assembly (2020) with recommendations for actions to focus and enhance mental health initiatives in congregations, mid councils, and seminaries going forward.
7. Encourage the Presbyterian Mission Agency to release materials guiding ministers, congregations, mid councils, and seminaries on how to care for the unique mental health needs of church members during times of prolonged emergency isolation, sharing lessons learned in the process of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

HSB-05, [Sexual Misconduct](#)

7. OGA and PMA ... to develop a plan for providing support to presbyteries and sessions as they respond to allegations of sexual misconduct, to be proposed to GA in 2024.

IMM-06, [The Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) as a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church](#)

8. We do hereby declare the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be a “Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church” that supports and encourages its congregations, mid councils, and members to support immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and their children, and to resist efforts by the government to separate families.
9. And ... stands ready to assist its councils in discerning their own calls to become “Sanctuary and Accompaniment” mid councils and congregations, to inform them of the legal risks associated with doing so, and to equip them to serve as places of welcome, refuge, accompaniment, and healing for those targeted due to their immigration status or other differences, while taking into consideration local contexts, capacity, and the results of congregational discernment.

**INT-10, [Ending the Siege of Gaza and Collective Punishment of Innocent Palestinian and Israeli Citizens](#)**

**GA Stated Clerk to communicate this action to councils**

**MC-02, [Encouraging the Board of Pensions to prayerfully consider allowing ruling elders serving in mid council staff positions the option of enrolling in the Pastor's Participation Plan](#)**

**Encourage the Board of Pensions to allowing ruling elders in mid council staff positions option to enroll in the Pastor's Participation Plan of the BoP.**

**MC-07, [A Resolution on Chartering Immigrant Fellowships](#)**

- 1. Direct the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) to develop standardized guidelines for chartering Immigrant Fellowships, Worshiping Communities, and New Church Developments.**
- 2. Direct the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) to use the term "New Church Development" instead of Fellowship and include them in the national statistics of the PC(USA).**

**MC-10, [Task Force](#)**

**Establish a task force to explore the theology and practice of ordination, including commissioned ruling elders, as well as membership, church structure, accountability, and chartering, and recommend any needed changes to the 226th General Assembly (2024). **This task force .... shall include ..... middle governing body leadership.****

**RGJ-08, [Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy](#)**

- 3. Direct the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) to share this apology with all of the congregations and mid councils of the PC(USA) on behalf of the denomination. The means of sharing this apology shall be coordinated with the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC).**
- 4. c. Encourage congregations, presbyteries, and synods to prepare a history of their community to facilitate and deepen their study and understanding of these issues and to share the resources they find helpful in that preparation with the larger church.**
- d. Commit the PC(USA) to restorative justice/reparations and direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the Stated Clerk to provide tools and budget resources for congregations, presbyteries, and synods to enact restorative justice measures in their communities that will close gaps in economics, health, education, environmental well-being, and the criminal justice system created out of the legacy of slavery and white supremacy. These gaps have existed since our development as a country and still exist today.**

**VIOL-07, [Gun Violence](#)**

- 1. [PCUSA to r]enew its commitment to end gun violence by approving a 10-year campaign, the Decade to End Gun Violence (2022–2032), to be conducted at all levels of the church.**
- 2. Make this report and subsequent updates to this report available to congregations, mid councils, and other entities during the Decade to End Gun Violence.**

**VIOL-8, [Healthy Relationships Free of Violence and Coercion](#)**

- 3. Encourage church members to advocate in their presbyteries for removal of guns from domestic abusers.**

5. Encourage members, congregations and councils to minister to those who are incarcerated and their families, and direct the denomination to identify or develop resources compatible with our faith tradition to equip these ministries.

### 3) Actions for Mid Councils

#### ENV-02, Investing in a Green Future

4. Work towards a goal of 100% renewable energy in congregations, mid-councils and agencies in the PC(USA) by 2030 by practicing energy efficiency, purchasing our power from renewable energy sources, and investing in the development of renewable energy.
6. Make use of the extensive resources about eco-justice available from the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Creation Justice Ministries, and other partners....

#### ENV-05, On Reducing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Carbon Imprint

3. b. Examine policies and procedures to identify ways to reduce our carbon imprint.
4. That every council share and celebrate with the higher judicatory every two years about how their carbon imprint has been reduced.  
[So, e.g. presbytery ask for and receive reports from sessions/congregations and share their report with Synod.]
8. h. i. Encourage congregations, mid-councils, and agencies of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to invest in the renewable energy industry.

#### GA-MC-07, Inclusive Gender Options When Gender Information Is Collected

Use gender inclusive terms whenever collecting gender info – for example, on annual statistical reports, PIFs and MIFs, event, registration forms

#### GA-MC-09, Urban Ministry

6. Encourage governing bodies with cities within their bounds to increase coordination with Full Communion partner denominations (in particular) to ensure critical mass for congregational life, pastoral presence, and new forms of ministry in neighborhoods under stress.
7. Encourage governing bodies with rural areas within their bounds similarly to engage in collaboration with Full Communion partners and appropriate public investment efforts as well to ensure viable ministries and sustainable communities.
8. Recognize the need for denomination-wide mission strategies to lessen urban/rural divides and reduce new forms of inequality among cities and regions, and to develop shared financial vehicles that can help governing bodies and congregations redevelop properties to better serve Christian witness, family, and communal life in the future.
9. Request that the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through its Compassion, Peace, and Justice ministries unit, to evaluate denominational efforts to support urban ministries, in consultation with representatives of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, leaders of the Urban Ministry Network, and presbytery and synod leaders with urban mission program commitments, and report as appropriate to Presbyterian Mission Agency leadership and Board and the 225th General Assembly (2022).

GA-MC-13, Invitation from the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky to intentionally share in lament and give voice to hope within their own ecclesiastical, historical, and social contexts

2. Invite the mid councils and worshipping communities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to set aside time between this and the 226th General Assembly (2024) to intentionally share in lament and give voice to hope within their own ecclesiastical, historical, and social contexts.

HSB-03, [Reproductive Justice](#)

3. [E]very synod, presbytery, and congregation ... encourage[d] ... to promote and advocate for reproductive justice in their specific context for child bearing people. Our greatest concern is for child bearing people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

HSB-04, [Mental Health Ministry](#)

1. Commend to ministers, congregations, members, mid councils, and seminaries, capacity-building in the skills of mental health first aid and suicide prevention.
2. Commend to ministers, congregations, members, mid councils, and seminaries, capacity-building in trauma-informed responses to mental distress and trauma-informed pastoral care.
3. Commend to ministers, congregations, members, mid councils, and seminaries capacity-building in the skills of “companionship,” in order to better walk side-by-side with people affected by mental health conditions and their loved ones.
4. Commend to ministers, congregations, members, mid councils, and seminaries capacity-building in mental health awareness and understanding, advocating with and for people with lived experience of mental health conditions to create safe and stigma-free communities for all.
5. Commend to mid councils and seminaries, capacity-building in resilience and the prevention of compassion fatigue for ministers and other church leaders, working in collaboration with established programs of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
8. Direct that a new “primary resource” be created by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for inspiring and equipping congregations, mid councils, and seminaries to engage in mental health ministry. Where excellent capacity-building models/programs already exist (as with Items 1–3, 5), these should be lifted-up.

IMM-08, [Treatment of Refugees](#)

3. Encourage congregations, presbyteries, and synods to engage with the refugee community by participation in welcoming activities, advocacy for the development of helping public resources, and resistance to unlawful or unhelpful government activity.

INT-02, [Recognition That Israel’s Laws, Policies, and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People](#)

2. Urge members, congregations, presbyteries, and national staff units, including the Office of Interfaith Relations, to seek appropriate ways to bring an end to Israeli apartheid.

INT-03, [Support of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

8. Encourages presbyteries, congregations, and individual members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:
  - a. Pray with the people of the Congo and other sub-Saharan countries for peace, justice, and the impartial rule of law;

- b. **Participate in the advocacy initiatives** of the Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations;
- c. **Support the work of PC(USA) mission co-workers** in the region and the ministries of our Congolese partner churches;
- d. **Join the Congo Mission Network** as it accompanies partners in the DRC and involves U.S. Presbyterians in the PC(USA)'s ministry of advocacy; and
- e. **Support financially the training** organized in collaboration with the World Council of Churches (WCC), All Africa Council of Churches (AACC), coalition of protestant churches in Congo (ECC), Presbyterian Church of Congo (CPC), Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa (CPK), for election observers, and civic educators to explain the electoral process.

INT-05, [Seeking Hope Amid Despair in Central America](#)

1. **Public Witness: .....encourages all Presbyterians, sessions, presbyteries, and other councils, ..... to advocate** with the United States and other governments to:
  - a. **Defend and support democratic** processes and elections, judicial independence and accountability, and international efforts to combat corruption and impunity in Central America.
  - b. **Support ecumenical Christian and interfaith efforts** to renew human rights covenants, strengthen multilateral human rights agreements among states, and safeguard the enforcement of international law.
  - c. **Reinforce Central American-led initiatives** for regional political, economic, and cultural integration including the freedom to travel across borders.
  - d. **Advocate funding** for culturally informed and nonviolent public health measures to address the following: femicide, intrafamilial violence, restrictions on contraception and reproductive rights, and persecution of LGBTQ+ communities.
  - e. **Affirm the church's advocacy** for the reform of U.S. immigration and asylum policies so that they respond to the human need in Central America described in this report.
  - f. **Promote just and sustainable economic empowerment strategies** in Central America. Such strategies would include advocacy for living wages and labor rights for workers in Central America, as well as investment by governments and the private sector in job creation as part of development agendas to mitigate the desperation that drives many to emigrate. Such agendas would include the following as points of departure:
    - i. **Work to ensure that trade agreements strengthen** local economies, preserve ecological sustainability, and reduce dependency on debt;
    - ii. Encourage the World Bank, Interamerican Development Bank, and IMF to **support more investment in public goods and social infrastructure**, rather than the privatization and deregulation that have increased inequality.
    - iii. **Recognize that all international investment needs greater transparency and accountability** to prevent corruption.
  - g. **Support increased international efforts** to monitor and implement judicial reform to challenge state corruption and impunity in Central America.
  - h. **Deepen cross-cultural conversation** about climate change and issues of environmental justice between the United States and Central America.
3. **Education and Formation for Transformation in Congregations: The 225th General Assembly invites and encourages PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries to:**



- a. **Engage Central American migrants** through acts of hospitality and accompaniment.
- b. **Engage Central Americans already among us** by sharing faith stories: “What have we seen and felt together? How have our experiences of hope and hardship connected us with our experience of God’s grace?”
- c. **Provide space to listen** to opponents of oppressive regimes in Central America. Our Reformed theology calls us to be a critical witness for individual leaders and political movements that promote social justice.
- d. **Sign up for advocacy alerts** from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, and the Washington-based Latin America Working Group ([www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org)), of which the PC(USA) is a partner.....
- e. **Read and reflect** upon the appended study paper (see PC-BIZ), its suggested resources,.....

**INT-07, [Promoting Human Rights in the Philippines](#)**

4. **Urge PC(USA) national agencies, mid councils**, congregations and individual Presbyterians to
  - a. **Pray with and for** the people of the Philippines;
  - b. **Learn about the history** of the Philippines, as well as its contemporary realities;
  - c. **Support the ministry and witness** of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), as well as PC(USA) mission co-workers and volunteers through the Presbyterian Mission Agency and its Presbyterian World Mission Office of Asia-Pacific;
  - d. **Engage in advocacy** with their respective legislators to support human rights in the Philippines.

**INT-15, [Peace Agreement in the Korean Peninsula](#)**

2. **Call on Presbyterians, including individuals, sessions, presbyteries (particularly peace and justice committees), and synods, to support the Korea Peace Appeal** and add their signature to the campaign.
6. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to **communicate electronically via website news and articles as well as targeted emails to Presbyterian individuals, sessions, presbyteries, synods, and other appropriate Presbyterian entities, both the new resources and the updated resources along with the working links for these resources on the PC(USA) website.**

**Use MOV-01, [Guiding Statement from the 2020 Vision Team](#), including PCUSA descriptors: Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive**

**RGJ-07, [Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations](#)**

1. **Encourage each presbytery to review their minimum compensation policies for pastoral calls** in light of this resolution and seek ways to fully resource congregations of color; and directs the Office of the General Assembly to **gather reports from each presbytery** after one year on actions taken to date and to disseminate that information to all mid council leadership for the purpose of sharing best practices. **Encourage our mid councils in cooperation with PMA, to assist congregations of color** in calling and supporting Teaching Elders with three years of minimum salary plus pension and medical.
3. **Encourage mid councils to research and begin to develop** a centralized system of PC(USA) for meeting minimum compensation standards for congregations without installed pastoral leadership.

4. **Strongly encourage mid councils to respond** to the National Black Presbyterian Caucus's (NBPC) analysis of causes of the lack of installed pastors in predominately people of color congregations.

Use **"A Litany of Repentance"** in [RGJ-08, Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy](#)

[RGJ-09, Apologies and Reparations for the Racist Closure of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Juneau, Alaska](#)

2. d. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to donate \$200,000, in the name of Memorial Presbyterian Church, to the Presbyterian Foundation Native American Church Property Fund, and **urge presbyteries and congregations of the PC(USA) also to donate** in the name of Memorial Presbyterian Church or present and past churches of other Native Americans and other people of color important to them.
- e. Encourage, and take active measures, to renew the collective commitments of the PC(USA), **including presbyteries** and congregations, to:
  - i. dismantle systemic racism;
  - ii. amplify the voices of clergy and lay members of churches "primarily people of color congregations"; and
  - iii. **develop and enhance models of engagement and accountability for the national church and presbyteries** in their interactions with churches of "primarily people of color congregations" so that difficult decisions about support and funding are made in a spirit that recognizes the importance and contributions of these congregations to the PC(USA), which outweigh superficial considerations of their membership numbers or perceived lack of financial resources.

[RGJ-10, Race, Reparative Justice, and the PCUSA](#)

3. Direct the Office of Research Services of the PC(USA) **to develop a survey, given to a sampled group of congregations and mid councils, about reparatory work** being discussed and/or pursued by them, especially as this work relates to the Matthew 25 Initiative and report their findings to the Center for Repair in time for the Center for Repair's interim report.
5. **Encourage presbyteries to account for histories of race-based injustice** when making choices about the disposition of properties when they are being sold or reallocated, attending to the wisdom of reparative justice and questions about, e.g., the origins of those properties, the means by which they were maintained, their potential use, the presence of historically marginalized communities in the area, and the impact of those properties on those communities.....
7. d. **Encourage churches, new worshipping communities, fellowships, and mid councils that are interested in reparatory work** to use newly published resources that can walk them through processes of discernment and action in pursuit of reparatory justice.

[RGJ-12, Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation](#)

2. **Recommend that PC(USA) congregations and mid councils develop and adopt an antiracism policy** in their manual of administrative operations and direct the Office of the General Assembly to provide model policies as a guide.
3. Direct the Presbyterian Historical Society to create an **online historical self-study tool for congregations and mid councils to investigate their own history**. The tool



should guide congregations and mid councils in exploring and reflecting upon **their history's impact on the lives of people of color past and present.**

4. Provide \$20,000 in funding to the Presbyterian Historical Society to help congregations and mid-councils obtain records for their self-study.
9. Direct Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the General Assembly **to create a model policy for mid councils that designates a specified percentage of any property sales/acquisitions for local reparative actions, and work with presbyteries to establish such policies.**

RGJ-14, [Violence and Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#)

3. **Call upon PC(USA) members, congregations, mid councils, and other entities, to commit to tearing down the idols of nationalism, misogyny, and xenophobia in the church through [race- and gender-conscious discipleship](#) that includes, but is not limited to, education on the diversity of the AA, NH, PI communities, AA, NH, PI issues, anti-AA, NH, PI bias, the fetishizing of AA, NH, PI women, and AA, NH, PI histories of oppression and resistance, including U.S. colonialism and militarism across Asia and the Pacific.**
10. **Call upon its congregations and mid councils to actively combat anti-AA, NH, PI racism by preaching and teaching against such racism.**
11. **Call upon its members, congregations, and mid councils to invite, empower, and hire AA, NH, PI ministry leaders who understand the complexities of U.S. racism to speak into the ways they can respond to anti-AA, NH, PI racism, misogyny, and Christian nationalism in holistic and long-term ways; listen to AA, NH, PI stories of discrimination, marginalization, racism, and racialization, in larger U.S. society and in the church; and include AA, NH, PIs in initiatives that impact communities of color.**
12. **Encourage its members, congregations, and mid councils to seek to understand the ways that the “model minority” myth pits the AA, NH, PI communities against other communities of color in ways that discourage solidarity among them, perpetuates the false notion that racial inequities and barriers can be overcome at the individual rather than systemic level, and discounts the harm that AA, NH, PI communities face and minimizes the needs of the AA, NH, PI communities when they emerge.**
13. **Encourage its members, congregations, and mid councils to seek to understand the ways the “perpetual foreigner” stereotype casts Asian Americans as a racial problem and as a “perilous other” in ways that lead to insidious racial microaggressions and brazen forms of anti-Asian violence.**
14. **Encourage its members, congregations, and mid councils to stand in solidarity with the AA, NH, PI communities by:**
  - a. **Advocating that their state governments invest in combating anti-AA, NH, PI hate and violence as well as addressing racial inequities that continue to harm AA, NH, PI communities.**
  - b. **Advocating that their state and local governments require all public schools and agencies to provide culturally competent mental health services and resources for AA, NH, PI youth and their families.**
  - c. **Advocating that their state governments require their public schools to include education about Asian American studies, such as the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH) Act enacted by the State of Illinois.**
  - d. **Advocating that their state governments institute public education programs and initiatives to combat harassment and violence against AA, NH, PI women and other vulnerable populations in public spaces, including streets and public transit, such as [bills proposed in California](#).**

- e. **Supporting AA, NH, PI businesses** and enterprises that are disproportionately and negatively impacted by COVID-19 as well as AA, NH, PIs in the workplace who are unfairly targeted and discriminated against.

**TWE-09, [Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates \(PCC\)](#)**

2. **Direct the Office of the General Assembly to remind all presbyteries through communication to and the training of their stated clerks that it is the presbyteries' responsibility to elect readers** [for the ordination exams] **who have the racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse gifts, experience, abilities, and commitment to appropriately evaluate ordination exams.**
3. **Encourage presbytery entities overseeing inquirers and candidates to authorize taking exams** only after confirmation that they have completed the available preparation resources.

**TWE-12, [Christian Education](#)**

3. **Enhance preparation for ministry for ministers of the Word and Sacrament/teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders (CRE) to have a greater focus on the role of pastor as teacher and educator by strongly encouraging:**
  - a. **Entities of the presbytery that oversee inquirers and candidates to encourage Christian education and faith formation coursework** as part of a candidate's master of divinity (MDiv) degree or additional preparation for ministry.
  - b. **Entities of the presbytery that oversee the training and preparation of commissioned ruling elders (CRE) to develop Christian education and faith formation leadership training.**
  - c. **Entities of the presbytery that oversee inquirers and candidates to have candidates demonstrate proficiency in teaching** as part of the ordination process, in addition to preaching a sermon.

**VIOL-07, [Gun Violence](#)**

6. **Direct the Office of the General Assembly to call upon all mid councils to:**
  - a. **Include ending gun violence as a regular part of their work and witness during the Decade to End Gun Violence.**
  - b. **Commend to all mid councils, as examples, the gun violence policies of the Presbytery of Detroit and the Presbytery of Transylvania.**

**VIOL-09, [Guns to Gardens](#)**

2. **Recommend to the churches and presbyteries of the PC(USA) that they learn about the Guns to Gardens project and prayerfully consider if it is a ministry to which they are called, as part of the PC(USA) witness to prevent gun violence, save lives, and provide healing for a nation traumatized by violence.**