



A Summary of General Assembly Actions

*Israel/Palestine, fossil fuel divestment,
OGA/PMA unification among major
issues addressed*

Rick Jones & Mike Ferguson
Office of the General Assembly

Church leadership

Key positions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) were filled during the assembly. The Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis were elected co-moderators of the 225th General Assembly. The assembly confirmed Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett's re-election to a second term as president and executive director of Presbyterian Mission Agency. The assembly confirmed the re-election of the Rev. Dr. Tom Taylor as president and CEO of the Presbyterian Foundation, his fourth term. The assembly also confirmed the 2021 election of Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Israel/Palestine

The General Assembly voted 266-116 to approve [INT-02](#), a "Recognition that Israel's Laws, Policies and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People." It declares that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "recognizes that the laws, policies, and practices of the government of Israel regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid."

Fossil fuel divestment

General Assembly approved [ENV-10](#) calling for divestment from five oil and gas companies: Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66 and Valero Energy. The assembly said the companies were not doing enough to slow global warming.

[Mission Responsibility Through Investment](#) (MRTI) reports that this is the first time the PC(USA) has voted to divest from companies out of compliance with GA's environmental policies (which was established in 2018.)

Unification and National Structure

On a vote of 321-54, General Assembly approved [FIN-10](#), which calls for the appointment of a commission to oversee and facilitate the unification of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) into a single agency. The assembly also approved [MOV-02](#), which moves Mission Engagement and Support (MES) from the Mission Agency to the Administrative Services Group, which supports both OGA and PMA.

Unified budget/per capita

The assembly approved [FIN-14](#), which includes unified budgets for the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Administrative Services Group of the PC(USA), A Corporation. The budget for the three agencies and entities totals \$88.3 million in 2023 and \$89.5 million in 2024. The breakdown of the budget will be 16% for OGA, 79% for PMA, and 5% for ASG.

The assembly voted to approve [FIN-13](#) which assesses a per capita rate of \$9.85 per member in 2023 and \$9.80 per member in 2024. The current per capita rate is \$8.98 per member meaning an 87-cent (9.6%) increase next year while the 2024 rate will drop by five cents (0.5%) in 2024. The per capita budget for 2023 was approved at \$15.2 million and \$15.6 million for 2024.

Immigration

By a vote of 340-25, the General Assembly approved [IMM-06](#), allowing the church to declare itself a “Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church.” The assembly’s Immigration Committee says the decision sends a message that the church is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy.

Gun violence

General Assembly approved a motion that the church renew its commitment to end gun violence by developing a 10-year campaign, the Decade to End Gun Violence (2022 – 2032).

The assembly also voted to direct Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to engage with Walmart, Dick’s Sporting Goods and Kroger, three publicly traded companies held by either the Board of Pensions or Presbyterian Foundation, that sell guns not classified as semi-automatic and assault-based weapons.

Ukraine

The assembly also voted 374-1 to approve [INT-19](#), a commissioners’ resolution condemning the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and crimes against humanity, and calling for a cease-fire and the immediate resumption of internationally mediated negotiations.

Race and gender justice

Commissioners and advisory delegates approved several items of business from the Race and Gender Justice Committee (RGJ), including [RGJ-07](#): “A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA) — From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee” and [RGJ-08](#): “On Offering an Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy.”

A two-hour plenary ended with votes overwhelmingly approving both items, and with white Presbyterians reading aloud “A Litany of Repentance” found in RGJ-08, which begins with the words: “As white Christians we repent of our complicity in the belief in white supremacy.”

The assembly also approved [RGJ-12](#) calling for a new special committee to expose white supremacy within the denomination and make recommendations for improvement. In addition, the assembly approved [RGJ-13](#), directing the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to “create educational resources for congregations to identify and interrupt practices and policies that perpetuate the adultification of Black girls and criminalization of adolescent behavior.” Commissioners and advisory delegates passed a resolution, [RGJ-14](#), denouncing violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Church will form a committee to write a new PC(USA) confession.

226th General Assembly

The assembly [voted to change the format of the 226th General Assembly](#), whereby committee meetings will be held online, with in-person plenaries being conducted on site in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2024. The assembly is expected to cost approximately \$2.8 million.

Mid councils

Commissioners and advisory delegates approved [MC-10](#), which creates a task force to explore the theology and practice of ordination for ruling elders and recommend any changes to the 226th General Assembly (2024). The task force will include representatives who identify as BIPOC, immigrant congregations and New Worshiping Communities.

Several amendments and motions were considered, but the overture was approved as amended by the committee.

Other

The General Assembly approved changes to the Standing Rules ([STAN-22](#)) that alter requirements for those serving as Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the assembly. YAADs must be:

- An active member of a PC(USA) congregation or participant in a new worshipping community or immigrant fellowship that has a relationship with a presbytery
- Between 18 and 23 years of age on the day the assembly convenes.

Read more news of the 225th General Assembly [here](#).

from
Lament
to **Hope**



