



General Assembly
MEDIA GUIDE



Do justice

Love kindness

Walk humbly

with your God

MICAH 6:8

218th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)



SAN JOSE, CA ▪ JUNE 21–28, 2008

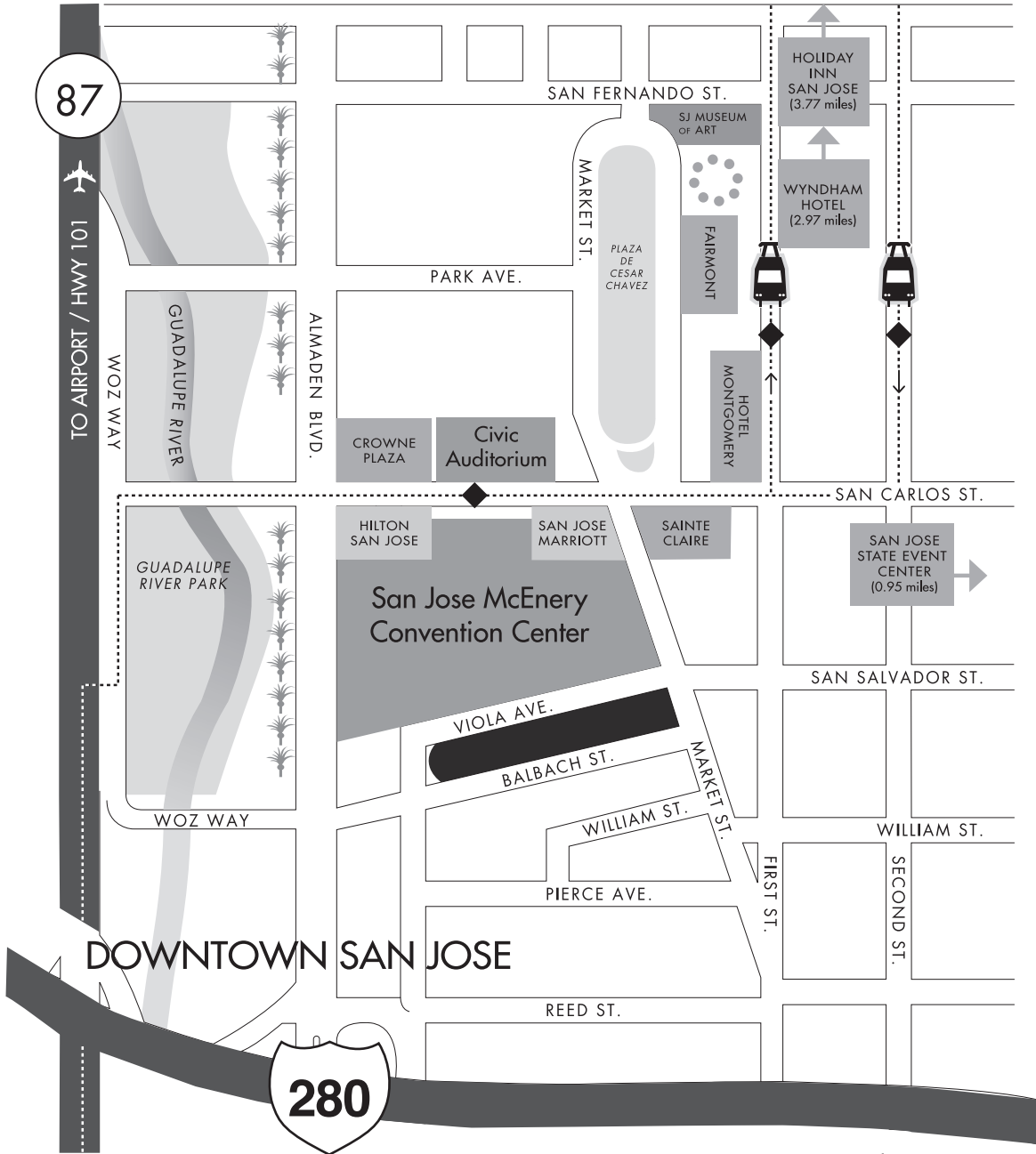


MEDIA GUIDE CONTENTS
218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This guide is designed to provide reporters with information about assembly procedures, schedules, pending business and general facts.

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SAN JOSE, CA
218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

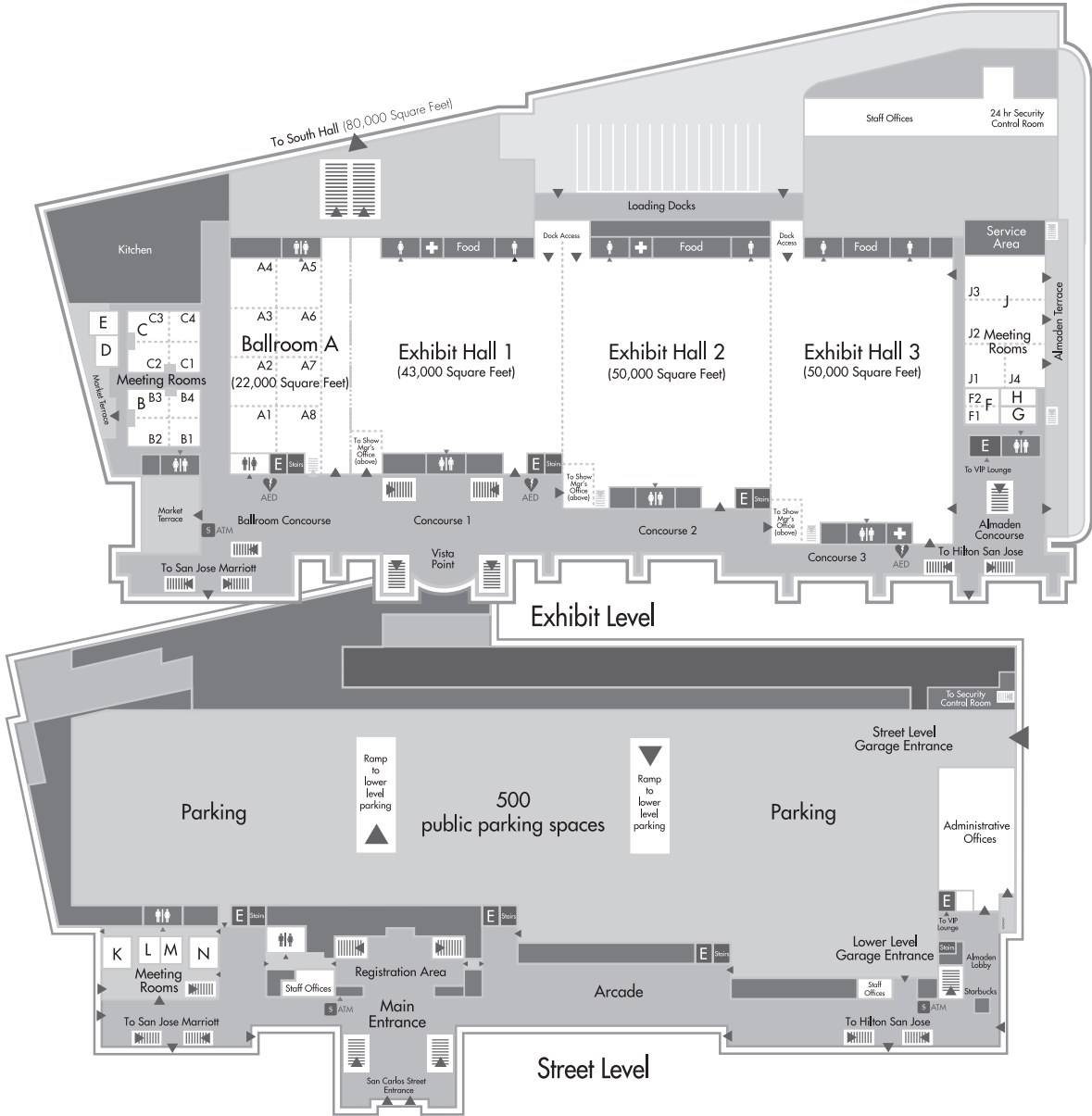


San Jose State University, Event Center - 290 S 7th St, San Jose
 Holiday Inn San Jose - 1740 N 1st St, San Jose
 Wyndham Hotel - 1350 N 1st St, San Jose

San Jose

FACILITIES SAN JOSE McENERGY CONVENTION CENTER

Overall Floor Plan



Facilities

General Information

Communication Center: The center is located in Room F of the convention center. The Communication Center is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, June 20th to Saturday, June 28th.

Daily Briefings: A briefing is printed for reporters providing schedule changes, event updates and issue information, and will be posted in the communication center and the press area each morning.

Press Conferences: Press conferences will be in room G of the convention center. Notice of additional press conferences will be posted in the Communication Center and the press area.

Schedule of Press Conferences:

- June 20—2 p.m. Committee on Local Arrangements and Stated Clerk preview of the General Assembly
- June 21—Immediately following the Moderator's Election
- June 23,24,25,26 & 27—Daily Press Conferences at 12:15 p.m.
- June 26—Immediately following the Stated Clerk's Election

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News Releases: News releases will be located online at www.pcusa.org/ga218 and near the convention entrance to the Hilton Hotel.

The General Assembly News: a daily newspaper published from Saturday, June 21st to Saturday, June 28th. The General Assembly News can be found at the Main Lobby Information Center, the Communication Center and the Exhibit Hall.

Web site: www.pcusa.org/ga218—News releases and photographs (see photo guidelines p.10) of all major events, as well as assembly-related documents will be posted. A RSS Feed is also available with General Assembly news and information subscription link found at www.pcusa.org/ga218.

PresbyTel: Toll-free information at (800) 872-3283, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time weekdays.

VoiceLine: Three-minute daily summaries. Call toll-free (800) 872-3283.

If you have questions prior to or following the assembly, contact Barry Creech at barry.creech@pcusa.org, (502) 569-5127 or Sharon Youngs at sharon.youngs@pcusa.org, (502) 569-5750. During the assembly please visit the GA Communication Center.

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PC-BIZ.ORG?

Pc-biz.org is our new electronic information system.
Find out more about what pc-biz could be doing for you on page 6.

General Information

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The General Assembly is the governing body of the PC(USA). It consists of 752 commissioners (ministers and lay persons) that are elected by presbyteries to vote on business at the Assembly. The Assembly establishes policies, priorities and budgets for the denomination and elects persons to ongoing boards and committees that carry out the work of the denomination between biennial meetings of the Assembly—the next being the 219th Assembly on July 3-10, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Read more about the General Assembly at <http://www.pcusa.org/ga218>

This is the 218th meeting of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). A estimated 5,000 people will attend the meeting from 50 states and several countries.

REFERRING TO THE PC (USA)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the largest Presbyterian denomination in the United States. There are 2.3 million members. The correct spelling of the denomination's name is Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PC(USA) is acceptable on second reference.



FACTS ABOUT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

Facts about PCUSA

Established: 1983 in Atlanta, following a reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (northern church) and the Presbyterian Church in the United States (southern church), which had separated during the U.S. Civil War

Total membership (2006): 2.26 million members

Total congregations: 10,903 congregations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico

National offices: Board of Pensions—Philadelphia, PA
General Assembly Council—Louisville, KY
Office of the General Assembly—Louisville, KY
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation—Jeffersonville, IN
Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program—Louisville, KY
Presbyterian Publishing Corporation—Louisville, KY

General Assembly Mission budget (2008): \$97.3 million annually

General Assembly Per Capita budget (2008): \$15.2 million annually

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Constitution: Under the authority of a two-part constitution—the Book of Order (church government) and the Book of Confessions (church doctrine)

Organizaion: 10,903 congregations (governed by elected Sessions) are organized into 173 presbyteries (district governing bodies) and 16 synods (regional governing bodies) plus the General Assembly (delegated national bi-annual meeting)

Ordained offices: Minister of the Word and Sacrament—ordained by presbyteries, Ruling Elders (govern congregations)—elected and ordained by congregations, Deacons (humanitarian service in congregations)—elected and ordained by congregations

Total ministers: 13,693 active; 7,667 retired

Historic firsts: First Presbyterian congregation in America—1683, Maryland
First Presbytery—1706, Philadelphia
First Synod—1717, Pennsylvania
First General Assembly—1789, Philadelphia

Educational institutions: 67 church-related colleges and universities, 10 theological seminaries, 7 racial ethnic schools and colleges

Total Mission Personnel: 210 Mission Co-Workers (plus 35 long-term mission volunteers, 56 young adult volunteers, 37 national volunteers) as of May 23, 2008

For other statistics, go to Research Services at www.pcusa.org/research/statistics_faq

Open Meeting Policy

OPEN MEETING POLICY

1. The work of the church is strengthened when it is done in a spirit of openness and trust. Church members have a basic right to know about the work done and the decisions made by entities within the church. Church leaders have a basic responsibility to honor that right by conducting their business with a spirit of openness and vulnerability to public scrutiny. Therefore, open meetings shall be the norm for all such entities.
2. It is the policy of the General Assembly, the General Assembly Council, its divisions and Mission Support Services Office, and of the entities and work groups related to them, that their meetings shall be open to all interested persons.
3. In certain circumstances, when the confidentiality of the subject matter is impeding the open work of the group, its meetings may be closed. These requirements apply:
 - (a) Subjects dealt with must be limited to property negotiation, personnel, civil and criminal litigation, or security.
 - (b) Closed meetings may be authorized only after serious consideration and by a majority vote of the members present. Such closure must be limited in time and scope to matters in 3(a) above.
 - (c) In closed meetings, only voting members and other persons invited by the group to serve it are to be present.
 - (d) The reason(s) for closing must be announced before closure and also must be recorded in the minutes.
 - (e) The decisions reached shall be recorded in the minutes, and shall be made public as soon as possible following the end of the closed meeting.
4. Since staff groups have neither the authority nor responsibility for establishing policy, their meetings are not subject to these provisions. This does not preclude them from opening their meetings.
5. The provisions of this policy shall apply to visitors and representatives of both church and public media, including print, electronic and photographic journalists.
6. All the provisions of this policy are to be applied equitably to all persons and groups.
7. The Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly is responsible for resolving questions relating to the application and interpretation of the open meeting policy.

Approved by the 209th General Assembly (1997)



PHOTO GUIDELINES & POLICY

The General Assembly recognizes and appreciates that many people wish to record portions of assembly meetings and related events. Taking photos or recording assembly meetings is permitted under the General Assembly's Open Meeting Policy. Taking still shots or video is permitted as long as:

During Business Sessions

1. Participants in the meeting are treated with courtesy and respect;
2. The photographer does not stand between official participants and the presenter;
3. Camera flashes or other lights do not interfere with participants or proceedings.

During Worship and Prayer

1. Photos made with the use of existing lighting are permitted in these services if taken unobtrusively and do not disrupt either the service itself or individual worshipers.
2. The Moderator of the General Assembly may provide additional requests related to photography during worship at the assembly.

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These provisions also apply to the use of recording devices. Staff in the General Assembly Communication Center will assist wherever possible in arranging for the taking of photos before or after specific events.

This policy applies to all persons attending a General Assembly function. Violators may be asked to leave the premises.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) PHOTO POLICY

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation is the owner and copyright holder of all photographs on this web site. Any PC(USA) congregation or governing body may use these photographs for noncommercial use without our prior permission, but may not license their use to anyone else. All other organizations, groups and members must receive our prior written permission to use. When the photographs are used, our ownership and copyright must be shown and credit given to the photographer where indicated.

PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES AND COLOR CODES

Participant Categories

All participants are strongly encouraged to register for, and to wear assembly credentials while inside the convention center. If you did not register in advance, you can do so on-site and obtain an assembly credential at Registration and Tickets Sales in the Registration Lobby of the convention center.

To ensure the safety and security of attendees, only credentialed participants wearing an assembly name badge are admitted to assembly plenary business sessions.

Only commissioners, advisory delegates, and designated assembly assistants are admitted to the commissioner and advisory delegate seating area during business meetings.

BADGES AND RIBBONS

The colors of the assembly name badges and ribbons distinguish different categories of participants.

BADGES

Blue	Commissioners
Navy	Advisory delegates
Red	Staff of the Office of the General Assembly, General Assembly Council, Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
Gray	Elected members and others representing the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, General Assembly Council, Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
Black	Presbytery and synod staff and stated clerks, ecumenical representatives and guests, worship leaders, other invited guests
Yellow	Observers
Orange	Committee on Local Arrangements Volunteers
Clear with Green Strip	Press
Clear with Orange Strip	Exhibitors

RIBBONS

Black	Corresponding members
Gold	Lead Resource Persons
Yellow	Resource persons
White	Presbytery and synod overture advocates
Gray	Office of the General Assembly volunteers



“PC-biz” is the name for the electronic system for accessing and tracking business. Developed specifically for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), it is the primary way commissioners and advisory delegates will access assembly business. It is also the means by which all others (staff, observers, press, etc.) will follow assembly business.

Commissioners and advisory delegates, other official attendees, and the press will have power outlets and necessary connections for their laptops in the plenary hall. Wireless (and very limited wired) access to the Internet will be available in the press room.

In a nutshell, here’s how PC-biz will work:

- Before the assembly: Assembly business (overtures, reports, supporting resources, and so forth) is available on PC-biz (pc-biz.org).
- During the assembly: In committees, a recorder will record on a laptop the committee’s action on each business item while others follow along either on their own laptop or via a large screen that will display the committee recorder’s work. In plenary sessions, each commissioner and advisory delegate will work from a laptop to access business items. The system will also automatically sync each committee and plenary session as it happens in real time. (Note: Two assembly committees will not be using PC-biz because of the focus of those committees (more generative thinking than business items), as well as their locations, which will be inaccessible to PC-biz.
- After the assembly: The history of each assembly action—from the original overture or motion to the final action taken by the assembly—will be available through PC-biz.

PC-biz can be accessed from www.pcusa.org/ga218. The option to create an account is available, but is not necessary to read assembly business. Creating an account (free) offers additional features, such as tracking items and making notes. Helpful aides for navigating the system are also available at pc-biz.org.

For those bringing laptops, the **minimum specifications** required to use PC-biz are:

- **For Windows laptops:**

Minimum: Pentium III processor with 256 MB RAM, Windows 2000, Internet Explorer version 6 (version 7 is recommended) or Firefox browser, wired network interface card (NIC), and wi-fi accessibility (wireless using 802.11b standard)

- **For Macintosh laptops:**

Minimum: G3 processor with 256 MB RAM, OS9.1 (operating system), Firefox browser, wired network interface card (NIC), and wi-fi accessibility (wireless using 802.11b standard). Safari browser will not work with PC-biz.

Training sessions will be offered onsite in San Jose (location and time to be announced).



TOP-TEN ISSUES BEFORE THE 218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)

Before each General Assembly, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly shares what he considers to be the top ten issues coming to the assembly, based primarily on overtures that have been submitted and his travels and conversations with Presbyterians across the church. Here is the Clerk's non-prioritized list for 2008.

A revised Form of Government – The Form of Government Task Force was created by the 217th General Assembly (2006) to propose a revised polity that would be more flexible, foundational, and appropriate for a missional Reformed church in the 21st century. The task force is bringing a revised Form of Government for adoption by the assembly and recommendation to the presbyteries.

Partnership in world mission – The 217th General Assembly called for a consultation between the General Assembly Council world mission program and a variety of mission initiators in the PC(USA). The fruits of that consultation will be before this assembly in a call for an “Expanding Partnership in God’s Mission” that involves a wide variety of groups working together for the renewal of PC(USA) world mission.

PC(USA) ecumenical stance and covenants – The 218th General Assembly will take action on a number of ecumenical items, including a proposed new policy on the ecumenical stance of the PC(USA) and covenant agreements with four different churches: the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, the Episcopal Church, the Catholic Church, and the Moravian Church.

Peace, unity, and purity of the PC(USA) – Several proposals concerning the peace, unity, and purity of the church will be before this year’s assembly, including fresh ways to use discernment in our life together, reconsideration of some or all of the actions of the previous assembly in this area, and proposals to change the constitutional standards for ordination.

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The Belhar Confession – This assembly will be asked to act on a proposal to take the first step toward adding the Belhar Confession to The Book of Confessions. This confession grows out of the experience of Christians in South Africa and is an affirmation of the biblical call to Christian unity and racial reconciliation.

Middle East concerns – Before this General Assembly will be a variety of overtures and advocacy committee proposals to strengthen the PC(USA)’s witness to peace with justice in relation to both Israel/Palestine and Iraq.

Elections – A Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) will be elected to a two-year term, and a new Stated Clerk of the General Assembly will be elected to a four-year term.

Growing God’s Church Deep and Wide – The General Assembly Council is challenging the whole church to adopt a two-year commitment to grow the church in membership, in discipleship, and in diversity.

Domestic social justice concerns – This assembly will address a large number of social justice concerns, including the adoption of a new Social Creed, as well as the adoption of major policy papers on serious mental illness, energy and global warming, pay equity for women, homelessness, and electoral reform.

A church for future generations – One assembly committee will do generative thinking as it focuses on the church’s ministry to and with youth to ensure a church for future generations.



MODERATOR CANDIDATES

THE REV. BILL TENG

National Capital Presbytery endorses GA moderator candidate

The Rev. Bill Teng seeks to restore 'sense of hope' in denomination

A desire to “go back to the basics” and help the denomination regain hope is what has propelled the Rev. Bill Teng to stand for the position of moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

National Capital Presbytery endorsed Teng’s candidacy on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Teng served as moderator of the presbytery in 2004.

“Our denomination at this time really needs to have a sense of hope,” said Teng, pastor at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA.

With churches leaving the PC(USA) and the report of the General Assembly’s Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church still unsettling, “there needs to be someone who could stand up and remind our church what its primary calling is, and that is to go back to the basics, to put our emphasis on mission and evangelism.”

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“Bill has been a significant leader in this presbytery,” said the Rev. G. Wilson Gunn Jr., general presbyter. He has worked “tirelessly” at various issues, especially cross-cultural understanding, he said.

Teng was born in Hong Kong, China and moved to the United States at the age of 18. He is a fourth-generation Presbyterian pastor, and said he has a great sense of “gospel debt” to the denomination that led his great grandfather to Christianity.

“I look at myself as a product of Presbyterian mission,” he said. Teng said he is still developing his platform of issues, but that he will emphasize “what’s important to the church,” and what kind of witness it can have to the world.

He added that one thing that was particularly “edifying” to him in receiving his presbytery’s endorsement was the support shown from both conservative and liberal sides of the denomination. “I think that really meant a lot to me,” he said.

THE REV. BRUCE REYES-CHOW

Bruce Reyes-Chow is second candidate for GA moderator

San Francisco Presbytery endorses new church development pastor

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, 38, pastor of San Francisco’s Mission Bay Community Church and a leader in the “emergent church” movement, is the second announced candidate to stand for election as moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s 218th General Assembly (2008) next summer in San Jose, Calif.

Moderator Candidates

Reyes-Chow's candidacy was endorsed Jan. 15 by San Francisco Presbytery.

An ordained Presbyterian minister since 1995, Reyes-Chow is a graduate of San Francisco State University and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is the grandson of Chinese and Filipino immigrants and was raised in Sacramento and Stockton, Calif.

Reyes-Chow is the founding pastor of Mission Bay Community Church, a multi-cultural, multi-generational New Church Development of San Francisco Presbytery that makes extensive use of cyberspace to communicate and conduct its ministry. Reyes-Chow himself is a prolific writer and blogger, calling himself "pastor/geek/dad/follower of Christ."

Reyes-Chow is a highly sought-after speaker who has served the church at levels as well as in the ecumenical arena. On his campaign blog, he cites at least five reasons for his candidacy:

- The church needs an infusion of positive energy
- The church needs empowering, Christ-centered leadership
- The church needs someone who understands the many facets of ministry in the PC(USA)
- The church needs someone who is not afraid to speak the truth"
- The church needs a Moderator who can be a healthy presence to our congregations throughout the denomination

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"This is not the time to try to legislate our way out of disagreements," he told San Francisco Presbytery before the endorsement, "but to engage in the hard work of building relationships that are not about convincing and persuading but of authentic discovery of the voice of Christ within one another."

THE REV. CARL MAZZA

Homeless ministry founder is third candidate for GA moderator

The Rev. Carl Mazza is endorsed by New Castle Presbytery

The Rev. Carl Mazza, the founder and leader of Meeting Ground, a community-based ministry with the homeless and other marginalized people in Elkton, MD, is the third announced candidate to stand for moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008), next summer in San Jose, CA.

Mazza was endorsed for the highest elected General Assembly office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Jan. 18 by New Castle Presbytery, based in Newark, DE.

Mazza, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, founded Meeting Ground in 1981. It now encompasses two shelters, one for women and one for men; a transitional house; and a rural residential facility for men, women and children. Meeting Ground also operates a care program for children and youth and a church-based winter shelter program that rotates among area churches.

According to Loaves & Fishes, Meeting Ground's newsletter, in 2007 the ministry provided almost 21,000

(Continued on next page)

Moderator Candidates

(Continued from previous page)

bednights of emergency and transitional housing, almost 30,000 meals, and assisted almost 300 persons in the transition from being homeless. Since its inception, Meeting Ground has provided more than 406,000 bednights of emergency and transitional housing.

“The call of my life and my reason for entering the ministry is to be with and among persons who are experiencing homelessness or otherwise struggling to survive at the margins of our society,” Mazza writes on the New Castle Presbytery Web site.

“In 26 years several hundred Presbyterian churches, and thousands of mission volunteers, seminarians, interns, and others have been part of our community and ministry,” Mazza says, “including former [General Assembly] moderator Rick Ufford-Chase.”

Mazza says he also wants to dispel the notion that “non-parish” ministry is not a sidelight of the church. “The province of the Gospel is not the church, but the world — particularly with the persons at its margins, as the Bible teaches,” he writes, “and the call of the church is to continually create new forms of parish in the world.”

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ELDER ROGER SHOEMAKER

Nebraska elder is fourth candidate for moderator

Roger Shoemaker is leader of PC(USA)'s Czech Mission Network

Elder Roger Shoemaker, a member of Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, NE, has become the fourth candidate to stand for moderator of the upcoming 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Shoemaker, 74, was endorsed Feb. 16 by Homestead Presbytery.

Born and raised in Illinois, Shoemaker moved with his family to southern California when he was a senior in high school. He is a graduate of Fresno State University with a degree in industrial engineering.

Shoemaker became a Presbyterian in 1960 when he met his wife, Sue. First members of Community Presbyterian Church in Ventura, CA, the Shoemakers later became founding members of Eastminster Presbyterian Church there. They moved to Lincoln in 1969.

Shoemaker has served at all levels of the PC(USA) and in a variety of capacities. He has served as a deacon and an elder, has served as vice-moderator and moderator of Homestead Presbytery, and has served as vice-moderator of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

He says a turning point in his church life came in 1989, when he served on a task force at Southern Heights church that formed a partnership with a Lutheran church in Lohmen, East Germany, a partnership that continues to this day.

Moderator Candidates

Growing out that partnership came in interest in the Czech Republic. Shoemaker became involved in the General Assembly Council's Czech Working Group and is currently co-convener of the PC(USA)'s Czech Mission Network. As a result of that work, he has attended several Synods of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren as the PC(USA)'s representative.

"The experiences of these varied exposures are the small grains of sand that make up the rock upon which Roger Shoemaker stands, his Web site says. "These granules of sand are held together by the faith that has grown within him over the years and continues to grow in order that it may be shared."



GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATED CLERK NOMINEE

Stated Clerk Nominee

The Rev. Gradye Parsons has been selected by the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee as its nominee for Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Guided by a strong faith in Jesus Christ and a deep love of the church in general and the PC(USA) in particular, Gradye Parsons brings a wonderful blend of experiences and creative leadership to successfully fill the position of Stated Clerk,” said Steve Grace, an elder, member of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and chairperson of the nomination committee.

“Gradye has led the way in changing from annual to biennial General Assemblies and encouraging the church to explore tools of discernment and other innovative ways of decision-making. The committee was excited to hear about his vision to revitalize elder leadership in the church, which began with the first-ever national elders conference last August.”

Parsons has served as associate stated clerk of the General Assembly for the past eight years. In that role, he has been the director of operations for the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), including director of OGA’s General Assembly Meeting Services department.

Parsons has staffed a number of General Assembly committees. He spearheaded the development of a review process for each of the six agencies of the PC(USA) and staffed five of the six committees that conducted the reviews, with the exception being the review committee for OGA.

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Before his national church responsibilities, Parsons served as pastor of two churches in Tennessee for fifteen years. He was executive presbyter and stated clerk of Holston Presbytery for six years.

Grace noted, “Gradye brings a broad knowledge of the church, as well as a breadth of experience – from a pastoral perspective and a middle governing body leadership position.”

Responding to the committee’s decision, Parsons said, “I am humbled and excited to be asked to serve the PC(USA) as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. This church matters, not only within the PC(USA), but as part of the larger body of Christ. I look forward to the opportunities to be both a leader and a learner in this new call.”

The Stated Clerk Nomination Committee was elected by the General Assembly in 2006 in Birmingham, AL. The nine members include four past General Assembly commissioners, three individuals from the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, a representative from the General Assembly Council and a representative of middle governing body staff.

Since its election, the committee has overseen a church wide application process that resulted in 14 applications being submitted and reviewed by the committee. Telephone interviews were held with all of the applicants. The committee then held face-to-face interviews with five of the applicants.

“Our committee has been through a marvelous discernment process,” said Grace. “We truly felt God’s presence with us on our journey. All the applicants had many gifts for ministry, but it is very clear to all of us that Gradye Parsons is the person we believe is being called by God to serve as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.”

Stated Clerk Nominee

“We enthusiastically endorse his nomination.”

All of the applicants not selected by the nomination committee had until 45 days prior to this year’s General Assembly (deadline of May 7) to notify the committee that they intended to stand for Stated Clerk as well.

The other applicants are:

- The Reverend Edward H. Koster, Stated Clerk of Detroit Presbytery
- The Reverend Winfield “Casey” Jones, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Pearland, TX
- The Reverend William P. Tarbell, pastor of Saluda (SC) Presbyterian Church

The Standing Rules of the General Assembly require that persons wishing to stand for the position of Stated Clerk in addition to the committee’s nominee must have submitted an application to the committee by last December’s deadline and have gone through the committee’s process.

The Stated Clerk is an officer of the General Assembly, leader of the Office of the General Assembly staff, spokesperson for the church as directed by the General Assembly and permanent ecumenical representative for the church.

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The Stated Clerk is elected to a four-year term. The current Stated Clerk, the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, chose not to seek re-election after three four-year terms in office.

The election of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly will be held at this year’s Assembly meeting, June 21-27, in San Jose, Calif.

The new Stated Clerk will assume his duties no later than thirty days after the General Assembly.

In addition to Steve Grace, an elder from Beulah, Mich., members of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee are elders Tom Adger (Atlanta, Ga.), Pamela Deichmann (Winterset, Iowa), and Joan Fong (Fremont, Calif.); and ministers Anna Case-Winters (Chicago, Ill.), Helen Baily Cochrane (Bethlehem, Pa.), Lyle Hillegas (Santa Barbara, Calif.), John Purcell (Dallas, Texas), and Donnie Woods (Charleston, S.C.). The staff resource to the committee is Carol McDonald (Synod of Lincoln Trails, Indianapolis, Ind.).

Conducting Business

In a typical year the General Assembly receives about 700 items of business on which it is asked to take action. There are various deadlines for submission of various kinds of business. The final deadline is no later than 45 days before the assembly convenes. The one exception to this deadline is a Commissioners' Resolution (see below.)

Business comes to the General Assembly from four sources:

- 1) Overtures that have been written and approved by a presbytery or synod
- 2) Reports from entities, commissions and committees of the General Assembly
- 3) Commissioner's resolutions. These have to be proposed by at least two commissioners to the assembly and submitted to the Stated Clerk within 24 hours of the convening of the assembly.

The Stated Clerk determines which items of business are admissible for the assembly to consider. The Stated Clerk refers all admissible items of business to the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (B & O.) The B & O then assigns each piece of business to one of 14 committees.

Committee procedures and process:

- The Moderator of the General Assembly appoints each committee moderator and vice-moderator.
- Commissioners and Advisory Delegates are assigned to committees using a random computer selection.
- Committees meet for three days to discuss each item of business assigned to them. The committee may amend the recommendation as it considers the item, then it makes a final recommendation for assembly action.

Business then goes to the full General Assembly:

- The full assembly convenes in plenary session to hear the recommendations of its committees.
- The General Assembly may amend any item of business as it discusses the recommendations
- The assembly must "answer" each item of business using one of five options: approve, disapprove, take no action, approved as amended, or answer with a different action than was originally proposed.
- The assembly takes action by voting on each recommendation.

All actions stand as the final determination of the General Assembly that took the action, except for proposed changes to the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions.

General Assembly actions are not binding upon individual Presbyterians, congregations, other governing bodies unless they change the Constitution of the PC(USA). Actions do however, remain the official position of the PC(USA) General Assembly until they are superseded by subsequent Assembly actions.

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Amending the Constitution

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is comprised of two parts: Part One is *The Book of Confessions*, the doctrinal statements of the church; Part Two is the *Book of Order*, the governance document.

The process of amending each of these is significantly different.

To amend *The Book of Confessions*:

1. A General Assembly must approve a proposed amendment, usually after a number of years of study, and recommend it to the presbyteries for ratification;
2. Two-thirds of the presbyteries must vote to ratify the proposed amendment;
3. The next ensuing General Assembly must give final approval and enactment.

The Book of Confessions is rarely amended.

To amend the *Book of Order*:

1. A General Assembly must approve a proposed amendment, only after it has been reviewed by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and recommend it to the presbyteries for ratification.
2. A majority of all the presbyteries ratify the proposed amendment.
3. After hearing the official results of presbytery voting, the ensuing General Assembly declares the amendment made.

The Book of Order is typically amended several times each assembly cycle.

COMMITTEES, LEADERS & KEY TOPICS

Committees & Key Topics

(M= moderator V = vice moderator C- committee assistant P = parliamentarian/recorder)

02–Bills and Overtures: Docket of the assembly and referrals of business to assembly committees after commencement of General Assembly (Standing Rules C.4. b.); appeal of persons denied the right to speak at a public hearing (Standing Rule E.5.b.); review requests for distribution of material to commissioners (Standing Rule E.6.c.); review requests from agencies to schedule meetings, briefings, hearings during assembly meeting (Standing Rule E.6.d.); recommend approval of time limits on debate (Standing Rule F.1.b.); review and recommend approval of General Assembly Minutes (Standing Rule F.1.c.); requests for presentations to the assembly (Standing Rule F.1.d.); review protests, determine if entered in the Minutes, prepare response if needed (Standing Rule F.1.e.); report on assembly committee requests for establishment of special committees or commissions (Standing Rule K.1.a.-b.).

M - Hedgepeth, Bruce

V - Shofu, Bisi

C - Murphy, Barbara

P - Smith, Steve

03–General Assembly Procedures: Consider matters related to: meetings of the assembly; per capita budget; standing rule amendments; operation of the Office of the General Assembly; statistics; publishing of reports; General Assembly Nominating Committee process; special committees; commissioners and advisory delegates credentials/leaves of absence.

M - Kimm, George

V - Krebill, Dan

C - Hoge, Dee

P - Coffelt, Dick

04–Church Polity: Consider matters related to: amendments to Chapters I, III–V, VII–XIV, XVI–XVIII of the Form of Government with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; requests for interpretation; amendments to the Rules of Discipline with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice. Marriage and Civil Unions. Advisory Committee on Litigation

M - Gill, Chandlee

V - Thomas, Raymond

C - Tse, James

P - Hockenberry, Ken

05–Church Orders and Ministry: Consider matters related to: Amendments to Chapter VI of the Form of Government with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; requests for interpretation; recruiting, enlistment of persons to service of church. Advisory Committee on the Constitution

M - Holloway, Dan

V - Farley, Barbara

C - Krummel, Sue

P - Howell, Therese

Committees & Key Topics

06–Form of Government Revision: Consider matters related to: The report of the General Assembly Task Force on the revision of the Form of Government.

M- Petersen, James
V- Williams, Daniel
C- Smith, Mary Elva
P- Lukens, Michael

07–Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: Consider matters related to: amendments to Chapter XV of the Form of Government with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; requests for interpretation; matters dealing with relationships with, and attitudes toward, other religious movements or bodies; conversations with other Presbyterian denominations; nominations for ecumenical advisory delegates; nominations for delegations to corresponding churches; reports of Corresponding Bodies.

M- Thomas, Margaret
V- Wescott, Linda
C- Boteler, Mary Gene
P- Cunningham, Katherine

08–Mission Coordination and Budgets: Consider matters related to: Mission programs authorized by General Assembly; PC(USA) vision and mission goals; Organization for Mission and General Assembly Council Manual of Operations; mission budget; audits; churchwide compensation.

M- Pollack, Kears
V- Sevier, Melissa
C- Howard, Craig
P- Conover, Robert

09–Social Justice Issues: Consider matters related to: Concerns of church in national affairs; national military matters; matters relating to righteousness and justice of persons/organizations. Committee on Representation. Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns

M- Warner, Kim
V- Straeter, Betsy
C- Porter, Kevin
P- Mills, Joey

10–Health Issues: Consider matters related to: Health, managed care, disabilities, abortion.

M- Gorman, Cinda Warner
V- McIvor, William
C- Schlich, Carl
P- Rainey, Virginia

11–Peacemaking and International Issues: Consider matters related to: Peacemaking, international military affairs, and the arms race; international matters; human rights; plight of refugees worldwide; international economic justice; global evangelism and education.

M- Kahaian, Nancy
V- James, Beverly
C- Rice, Sarai Schnucker
P- Boswell, Bronwen

Committees & Key Topics

12–Church Growth and Christian Education: Consider matters related to: Items concerning evangelism, outreach, and church growth as they relate to congregations and governing bodies of the church; higher education; matters relating to Christian Educators; church transfers, PILP.

M- Locke, Steve

V- Mathew, Thomas

C- Palmer, Forest

P- New, Rebecca

13–Theological Issues and Institutions: Consider matters related to: Amendments to The Book of Confessions, the Directory for Worship and Chapter II of the Form of Government with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; authority and interpretation of Scripture; theological institutions; celebration of Lord's Supper requests.

M- Brouwer, Douglas

V- Taylor, Cecelya

C- Kotfila, Kate

P- Therien, Linda

14–Review of GA Permanent Committees: Consider matters related to: Review of the work of the General Assembly Permanent, Advocacy, and Advisory Committees as Scheduled (See Standing Rule M.4.b.). PCCE, ACREC, GAPJC

M- Gieser, Susan

V- Chase, Matilda

C- McCloud, J. Oscar

P- Baird, George

15–Board of Pensions , Presbyterian Foundation and Presbyterian Publishing: Consider matters related to: Report of Board of Pensions; business related to the church's pension, annuity, and medical plans; other forms of such programs, including government or private retirement programs; business related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

M- Hite, Jesse

V- Casasus-Urrutia, Angel

C- Wright, Y. Dianna

P- Geckeler, Keith

16–Worship and Spiritual Renewal: Consider matters related to: How the General Assembly does its business in a way that reflects its common faith in Jesus Christ and how the church can seek a spiritual renewal through its congregations.

M- Lancaster, Kathy

V- Chuquima, Walter

C- Curtiss, Victoria

P- Whitaker, Doris Arnett

17–Youth: Consider matters related to: Youth, ministry for and with youth, youth participation in the church

M- Rush, Sue

V- Lasich, Celeste

C- Doughty, Sarah Sanderson

P- Ellison, Brian

KEY LEADERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Key Leaders

Moderator of the General Assembly– The Reverend Joan S. Gray:

The moderator of the General Assembly is elected at each assembly at the beginning of the meeting of the General Assembly from among the commissioners (elected delegates). The General Assembly moderator is not paid and is not considered General Assembly staff.

Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly–Elder Robert E. “Bob” Wilson:

The vice moderator of the General Assembly is appointed by the moderator at each assembly from among the commissioners (elected delegates). The General Assembly vice moderator is not paid and is not considered General Assembly staff.

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly–the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick:

The stated clerk is the chief ecclesiastical officer of the General Assembly, responsible for the meetings of the General Assembly, church records and statistics, the church courts and constitutional interpretation, the Department of History and ecclesiastical relations with other churches and ecumenical organizations. The stated clerk is a paid member of the General Assembly staff and is elected to a four-year term by the General Assembly. The Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick was elected to the office in 1996, reelected in 2000 and again in 2004. He previously served for 15 years as head of the PC(USA)’s global mission office.



A PROFILE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

A Profile

Presbyterians are distinctive in two major ways: they adhere to a pattern of religious thought known as Reformed theology, and a form of government that stresses the active, representational leadership of both ministers and church members. Presbyterians observe two sacraments—Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

EARLY HISTORY

The word Presbyterian, coming from Presbuteros, the Greek word meaning elder, provided the name for the Presbyterian family of churches, which includes the Reformed churches of the world. Both Presbyterian and Reformed are synonymous with churches of the Calvinist tradition.

Presbyterianism traces its roots back to the French reformer John Calvin, a contemporary of Martin Luther, who lived and worked in Geneva, Switzerland. Calvin and Luther were instrumental in the 16th century religious movement known as the Protestant Reformation. John Knox studied with Calvin and then returned to Scotland where he started the Presbyterian church.

Calvin’s Institutes of the Christian Religion, first published in 1536, detailed the principles upon which Presbyterian faith and practice have been built over the last four and a half centuries. Those principles include:

- Obedience to Jesus Christ as revealed by scripture, which is the authoritative witness to Jesus as Lord and Savior and to Christian faith and conduct;
- Christians are justified by faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior alone, not by works;
- The priesthood of all believers—laypersons and clergy—as equally called emissaries of Christ’s teaching and ministry in the world;
- God alone is the Lord of the individual conscience, but greater wisdom is to be gleaned from councils of Christians than by individuals alone;
- Salvation is to be sought corporately as well as individually and therefore Christians are called to be active witnesses to their faith in worldly affairs.

THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

In 1910, a predecessor denomination, United Presbyterian Church in North America (1858–1958) adopted a constitutional statement (G-1.0200 of the Book of Order) declaring the six great ends of the church. They are:

- The proclamation of the Gospel of the salvation of humankind;
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- The maintenance of divine worship;
- The preservation of the truth;
- The promotion of social righteousness; and
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

HISTORY IN AMERICA

In America, the first presbytery was organized in 1706, the first synod in 1717; the first General Assembly was held in 1789. Today’s Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was created by the 1983 reunion of the two main branches of Presbyterians in America separated since the Civil War—the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The latter had been created by the union of the

A Profile

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1958. Other Presbyterian denominations in North America include: the Presbyterian Church in America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

GOVERNED BY GOD'S WILL AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION

Presbyterianism in a wide sense is the system of church government by representative assemblies called presbyteries, as opposed to government by bishops (episcopal system), or by congregations (congregationalism).

Congregations of the PC(USA) are governed by a session, consisting of church members—called elders—who have been elected and ordained by their congregation. Elders are elected by the congregation and in one sense are representatives of the other members of the congregation. On the other hand, their primary charge is to seek to discover and represent the will of Christ as they govern. Congregations also elect and ordain persons to an office of humanitarian service called deacons.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament—the third ordained office in the PC(USA)—are ordained and governed by their presbyteries. Ministers are members of presbyteries, not of the congregations they serve.

Presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly are representative bodies consisting of equal numbers of elders and ministers. Presbyteries are composed of several congregations in a geographical region. Synods are composed of several presbyteries. The General Assembly, which convenes every other year, represents the entire denomination.

Sessions elect representatives—called commissioners—to presbyteries and presbyteries elect commissioners to synods and the General Assembly. Commissioners may not be instructed how to vote, but are called to vote according to their own conscience as they believe God leads them.

Principles and rules for governance in the PC(USA) are contained in The Book of Order, which is one of two parts of the church's Constitution. The other part is The Book of Confessions, which contains 10 doctrinal statements approved by the church over the years. Confessions are doctrinal statements of what the church believes to be the truth about faith and practice at particular moments in its history.

WORSHIP PRACTICES, ORDINATION FIRSTS & NATIONAL OFFICES

The order of a Sunday worship service in a Presbyterian church is determined by the pastor and the Session. It generally includes prayer, music, Bible reading and a sermon based upon scripture. The Sacraments—the Lord's Supper and Baptism—are a time of personal response and offering.

The PCUSA ordained its first woman to the ministry of the word and sacrament in 1956—Margaret Towner. The first woman moderator of the General Assembly—Lois Stair—was elected in 1971. The first African American moderator of the General Assembly—Elder G. Hawkins—was elected in 1964. The national offices of the Presbyterian Church (USA) are located in Louisville, Kentucky. The offices of the church's Board of Pensions are in Philadelphia. The Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation has its offices in Jeffersonville, Indiana.



Advisory Delegates: persons who are active members in one of the constituent churches or governing bodies of the General Assembly or churches related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They are elected to attend the General Assembly in an advisory role so that the assembly may be assured of receiving their special viewpoints. There are four categories of advisory delegates to the General Assembly: Youth Advisory Delegates (173), Theological Student Advisory Delegates (30), Missionary Advisory Delegates (8) and Ecumenical Advisory Delegates (4). Advisory delegates have voice and vote in assembly committees, but voice only on the floor of the assembly.

Assembly Committees: groups of commissioners who review each item of business being considered by the assembly and make recommendations about how the assembly should act on each business item. In 2008 there are 16 assembly committees. Each commissioner serves on an assembly committee. The moderator of the General Assembly appoints the moderator and vice-moderator of each committee. The remaining commissioners are assigned to a committee by a random computer selection.

Authoritative Interpretation (AI): an interpretation of The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that carries the authority of the General Assembly and is binding on the governing bodies of the church. According to G 13.0103r in the Book of Order, these interpretations are made: by the action of a General Assembly upon the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) or through a decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly in deciding a remedial or disciplinary case. The most recent interpretation of a provision of the Book of Order is binding.

Board of Pensions (BOP): A Philadelphia-based corporation related to the General Assembly that administers the major medical and pension plans of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for ministers, missionaries and other church workers; also administers retirement housing and other special assistance programs for church workers and retirees.

Book of Order: Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), containing the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline for the denomination.

Book of Confessions: Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) containing the 11 creeds, confessions and catechisms that have been adopted by the denomination.

Commissioners' Resolutions (CRs): items of new business (on subjects not already before the assembly in another form) that may be brought before the General Assembly if they are formally presented by at least two commissioners within 24 hours of the convening of the General Assembly.

Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA): a committee composed of members of the host presbytery or presbyteries that organizes the on-site logistical and hospitality support in advance of the General Assembly, enlists volunteers to assist visitors attending the assembly and sponsors special events during the Assembly highlighting the local area, its churches and culture.

Constitution: The governing document of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), consisting of two parts – The Book of Confessions (11 doctrinal statements adopted by the church) and the Book of Order (Form of Government, Directory for Worship and Rules of Discipline).

Docket: the business agenda for the meeting.

Glossary

Ecumenical Advisory Delegates (EADs): persons representing partner churches of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) around the world who bring their particular viewpoints to the assembly as formal advisors.

Elder: an individual who is elected and ordained by the congregation of which he or she is a member to help govern that congregation and participate in the governance of the other governing bodies.

General Assembly: the highest governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and represents in one body all 10,903 congregations in the denomination. The General Assembly meets bi-annually. It is composed of commissioners elected by each of the 173 presbyteries. Each presbytery elects an equal number of ministers and ruling elders (laypersons), based upon the total number of church members in its churches. In 2008 there are 752 commissioners. The General Assembly establishes policies, priorities and budgets for the work of the denomination and elects persons to ongoing boards and committees that carry out the work of the denomination between meetings of the General Assembly.

General Assembly Council (GAC): The 36 member elected body that oversees and administers the mission program of the General Assembly between meetings of the General Assembly; meets three times a year.

Governing Bodies: elected boards governing the work of the church at its four levels. The governing bodies are the session (one for each of the 10,903 congregations), the presbytery (173 clusters of from 20-150 congregations in specific geographic districts), the synod (16 clusters of presbyteries in specific geographic regions, and the General Assembly. Presbyteries and synods are sometimes referred to as middle governing bodies.

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Missionary Advisory Delegates (MADs): persons who serve the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as missionaries in other countries and who bring that perspective as formal advisors to the General Assembly.

Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI): Monitors corporations whose stock is owned by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) entities to insure that their corporate behavior is in compliance with General Assembly policies; recommends shareholder actions or divestment when non-compliance is determined; engages corporate leaders, may recommend corporations for commendation when their activity is particularly exemplary.

Moderator: the presiding officer of the General Assembly, elected each year. Following the assembly the moderator becomes the denomination's most visible good will ambassador, traveling and speaking throughout the church and overseas mission field until the next assembly. The moderator is not salaried.

Office of the General Assembly (OGA): Headed by the Stated Clerk, plans and conducts the General Assembly meeting, oversees the church's ecumenical relations with other churches, administers the ecclesiastical business of the church — property, litigation, nominations, judicial process, constitutional interpretation, statistics and minutes and the Department of History.

Order of the Day: a specific time that is designated for the assembly to act on a particular item of business. Whatever business is in process when an order of the day arrives is suspended so that the order of the day may be adhered to.

Glossary

Overtures: resolutions that are presented to the General Assembly for its consideration by presbyteries or synods.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation (the Foundation): A Jeffersonville, IN-based corporation related to the General Assembly that holds in trust for the purposes designated such funds, bequests, endowments and gifts as are placed in its care and solicits additional permanent funds for the benefit of the church and its entities.

Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. (PILP): A corporation created by the 1995 General Assembly that raises money for new church development and other capital needs of church-related institutions by offering investment certificates at competitive rates to church members and then lending the money at below-market rates to borrowers.

Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC): Based in Louisville, publishes books, other theological, educational and worship resources for Presbyterians. Primary imprints include Westminster/John Knox Press and Geneva Press.

Presbytery: a governing body consisting of all the ministers and at least one ruling elder from each church within a certain geographical district. There are 173 presbyteries.

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Reports to the General Assembly (RGAs): the formal reports submitted in advance by agencies, commissioners, and committees to the General Assembly by its entities.

Resource Persons: persons invited by one of the entities of the General Assembly to assist commissioners with additional information about issues or programs that are being considered.

Session: the governing body of a particular congregation. The session consists of the pastor, who acts as moderator, and a number of ruling elders who have been elected to active service by the congregation.

Stated Clerk: the top elected corporate officer of a presbytery, synod or the General Assembly. The General Assembly stated clerk, a full-time staff person, is elected to a four-year term of office. Each congregation has a Clerk of Session.

Synod: a governing body consisting of the ministers and ruling elders of presbyteries within a specific geographic region. Commissioners to the synod, an equal number of ministers and ruling elders, are elected by the presbyteries. There are 16 synods.

Theological Student Advisory Delegates (TSADs): Presbyterian students from the 11 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) theological institutions and Presbyterian students from other theological institutions that have a significant number of Presbyterian students enrolled in them who are elected to bring their particular viewpoints to the General Assembly as formal advisors.

Vice-Moderator: a commissioner to the General Assembly selected by the Moderator to help carry out the moderatorial duties of the General Assembly during the meeting and following year.

Glossary

Youth Advisory Delegates (YADs): active members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) between the ages of 16 and 22 who are elected to bring their particular viewpoints to the General Assembly as formal advisors. Each presbytery selects one Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly.

PERMANENT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC): Prepares recommendations and advice to the General Assembly on proposals for constitutional amendments and interpretation of the constitution; advises the General Assembly on the constitutional implications of actions it is considering.

Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC): Advocates for General Assembly action on all matters related to the church's ministry with racial ethnic persons and groups and on the church's witness to the world regarding racial ethnic issues.

Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP): Develops social policy statements and papers for action and advises the Assembly on the social policy implications of actions it is considering.

Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns (ACWC): Advocates for General Assembly action on all matters related to the church's ministry with women and women's groups and on the church's witness to the world regarding women's issues.

Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER): Coordinates the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s relationships with other churches and faith groups.

Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA): Oversees the ecclesiastical work of the church through the Office of the General Assembly, including the stated clerk.

Department of History/Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS): Based in Philadelphia with an additional facility in Montreat, N.C., houses the archives of historical artifacts and papers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), publishes historical journals and papers and provides historical information to the church and historical researchers.

General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR): Coordinates the implementation of principles of full participation and inclusiveness in all General Assembly entities; advocates and monitors the representation of persons of all racial ethnic groups, women, different age groups, persons with disabilities, diverse geographical areas, and different theological positions within the Reformed tradition.

General Assembly Nominating Committee (GANC): Recommends to the General Assembly nominees to fill vacancies on all entities elected by the General Assembly except where another nominating procedure is required; 16 members, one from each synod, are appointed to a six-year term by the moderator of the General Assembly on a staggered basis.

Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC): Acting under the Rules of Discipline in the Constitution, conducts hearings on disciplinary and remedial cases brought before it by appeal and conducts trials of cases in which it has original jurisdiction (the "Supreme Court" of the Presbyterian Church).

Notes

