

*At times lively, with bursts of dancing and joy, and - at times - pin-drop quiet as commissioners and observers listened to the voices at the mics, General Assembly 226 – themed **Live into Hope** – was an ever-faithful time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ask profound questions about the shape and future of Christ’s church.*



## ► **New stated clerk, co-moderators**

The **Rev. CeCe Armstrong** and the **Rev. Tony Larson**, both of South Carolina, were [elected co-moderators of the 226<sup>th</sup> GA](#), and the **Rev. Jihyun Oh**, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, [was elected stated clerk](#), the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but [in an overhaul of standing rules](#), the **moderatorial election will move to the end** of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates “mission advisory delegates,” creating partner advisory delegates instead.



## ► **Sexual orientation, gender identity protections**

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the *Book of Order*, [adding gender identity and sexual orientation](#) to the list of the “rich diversity” reflected in the church’s membership (recommendation 1, section F-1.0403) and then recommending [an examination of these principles for ordination and installation](#) (recommendation 2, section G-2.0104b) that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...” If POL-01 is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the *Book of Order*.

## ► **Unifying budget of OGA and PMA**

GA adopted a **\$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026**, [resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita](#) over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

## ► **Fossil fuels and climate justice**

After a protracted debate on alternative recommendations for [aligning the values of the PC\(USA\) with its investments in fossil fuels](#), the GA initially approved overture ENV-02 encouraging categorical divestment in fossil fuels and other efforts to respond to climate change. However, in a historic turnabout, the assembly reversed its decision, disapproving ENV-02 and approving ENV-06, which directs **further engagement with greenhouse gas emitters and the fossil fuel industry**.

## ► Medical coverage, small church flexibility

GAEC-28 asks mid councils to work with the Board of Pensions to [explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans](#) for Pastors and Spouse or Families to **help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present medical coverage options** for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.

GA unanimously agreed to develop educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church.

## ► Divestment from occupier countries

GA unanimously adopted a commissioner's resolution asking The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions, the two primary investing arms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to "prayerfully consider" [ending their investments in government debt](#) from countries "engaged in prolonged military occupation," currently defined by the United Nations as Israel, Morocco and Turkey.

## ► Prison justice

GA unanimously passed DOE-02, **encouraging ratification of a U.S. Constitutional amendment [abolishing the exception clause in the 13th Amendment that allows any person convicted of any crime to be enslaved](#)**, and also passed a commissioner's resolution urging Presbyterians to call upon elected officials to enact legislative or administrative reforms ending prolonged solitary confinement in jails, prisons, and detention centers.

## ► Protecting children from gun violence

DOE-03, an overture calling for action [so that children can live free from gun violence](#), passed easily in committee but was removed from the consent agenda so the entire assembly could hear testimony about it. Following heart-wrenching witness, co-moderator Tony Larson spoke and said, "[The stories are important, but they are hard](#). They are important because they have residence in our communities." DOE-03 passed the assembly unanimously.

## ► Changes to special offerings

The [four special offerings currently received by the PC\(USA\) will be reduced to three](#), and proceeds will be distributed to causes instead of programs. The changes in FIN-12, which take effect for the 2026 offerings, include eliminating the Pentecost Offering and moving the ministries it has supported to a restructured Christmas Joy Offering.

## ► The rejection of Christian Zionism

The GA passed on consensus the [update and expansion of the resolution confronting Christian Zionism](#) approved in 2004. Through the Office of Theology, Formation and Evangelism, GA calls on the denomination to reject Christian Zionism in all its forms, acknowledge the expansion of Christian Zionism in all its forms, and issue a study document that addresses the expansion of Christian Zionism since the 2004 policy.

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