

The 222nd General Assembly will be meeting in Portland, Oregon from June 18-25. Our presbytery will be sending four commissioners and one Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD): Ruling Elder Mike Lykens (Whitesville), Ruling Elder Chet Parsons (Morgantown), Teaching Elder Barbara Accord (Davis Memorial, Gassaway), Teaching Elder Todd Wright (Village Chapel, Charleston) and YAAD Maddie DiGiulian (Beckley).

You can find more about the General Assembly by going to the GA page on the PC (U.S.A.) website: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/222nd-general-assembly-2016/>. There you'll find a 12 minute video, a link to the proposed docket, a link to a booklet with information about the candidates for moderator as well as stated clerk, and a link to PC-BIZ. BC-BIZ allows you "to see and follow the business of a General Assembly meeting." There you will find the overtures and reports that are being considered by each committee at this GA as well as information about all the General Assembly meetings since 2006. Through PC-BIZ you'll be able to track how each committee votes as well as the votes taken on the floor of the assembly. It's a great resource and actually pretty easy to use. It basically gives you all the information that's available to GA commissioners.

Opening worship takes place at 11:00 AM PDT on Saturday, June 18. Outgoing moderator Heath Rada will be preaching. The service will be live streamed on the GA page listed above with the live stream taking the place of the video that's there now. You'll also find a link on that page to the liturgy that will be used for the Opening Worship. You may want to gather a group together to watch or really, if you download the liturgy, you could all participate in worship. The words and the music are included so you can sing along, although you'll have to provide your own bread and cup for communion. (Remember there's a three hour time difference between Oregon and West Virginia.)

All the business sessions of the assembly will also be live streamed so you can watch the election of the moderator, the election of the stated clerk, follow the reports of each committee, and listen to every debate if you want to. I think that the live streaming will also be on the PC (U.S.A.) website but I'm not completely sure about that. It may actually be on PC-BIZ. You can keep following the GA page for more information about that and the other issues coming before the General Assembly.

I also plan to write a daily report while I'm there for GA. I did that for each of the four General Assembly meetings while I was in Northern Kansas and people seemed to appreciate my perspective on what was happening. At this point the plan is for me to send my reports back to the office where it'll be sent out to the presbytery's email list. I may also post my reports on our presbytery Facebook page but that's probably going to be more content than Facebook is designed to handle.

Please pray for our commissioners and our YAAD and really please pray for all who will be gathering in Portland for this General Assembly. There may not be the same kind of controversy as there has been at the last few GA meetings but there will be things that we disagree about. For all our disagreements though, we have far more in common. God is still at work in our denomination. The General Assembly helps us to remember and to celebrate that. I'm looking forward to see what God has in store for us.