

Spiritual Preparation
For
The 222th General Assembly
Of
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
June 18 - June 25, 2016

The Hope in Our Calling

“So that, with the eyes of your heart
enlightened, you may know what is the hope
to which God has called you, what are the
riches of God’s glorious inheritance among the
saints.”



The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be holding our 222th General Assembly in Portland, Oregon this summer. Our denomination, like many denominations, is facing a number of challenges. At the same time, we have much life, and engage in many ministries. This booklet is designed to help us celebrate the gifts of our denomination, and to seek God's guidance and direction for our future.

A brief word about some of the terms used for the people who will be attending General Assembly. Commissioners are those who are elected by the Presbyteries to discern God's will through listening to the debates and seeking God's guidance in prayer. They are commissioners, not representatives or delegates beholden to a constituency. Commissioners have voice and vote in committees and in the plenary sessions.

There are also several kinds of advisory delegates: Young Adult, Missionary, Theological Students, and Ecumenical. These have voice and vote in the committees, but only voice in the plenary.

In addition to the commissioners and delegates, many visitors also come to General Assembly. Some of these will advocate for particular overtures. They may be permitted to speak in committees. Other visitors just come to observe the proceedings, participate in the worship, and visit with brothers and sisters of the faith.

Let us join in prayer for this gathering of the saints of God

June 26 and henceforth - Pray for the commissioners as they report to the presbyteries and the congregations about the General Assembly. Pray for all the publications which will interpret the Assembly to the congregations and members. May the Holy Spirit guide these interpretations and reports. Pray for our denomination that we may be faithful servants of Christ.

May each of us, all our congregations, the commissioners, delegates, and visitors, and the 222th General Assembly all be blessed by the Holy Spirit through these prayers.

May we go forth following this Assembly to serve as Christ's ambassadors, proclaiming the love of God in Jesus Christ through all that we do: caring for one another and for the stranger in body, mind, and spirit; feeding the hungry, tending the sick, lifting up the downtrodden, calling all sinners (including ourselves) to repentance, speaking for those whose voices have long been silenced, giving hope to the hopeless, humbly and gratefully walking and working with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us give thanks for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for its 222 years of ministry and mission in the Reformed tradition as part of the Body of Christ, for its continuing vision of the work which God is calling us to do, this day and always!

This booklet was created by Rev. Merritt N. Schatz, pastor of Grove Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen, Maryland. Permission is granted to reproduce and to personalize for your congregation or presbytery, as long as the general tone of the booklet is not changed. May, 2016

Daily Prayers

June 21 - Third day of committee meetings. Pray for all committees, especially for: Social Justice Issues; Peacemaking and International Issues; Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and Presbyterian Foundation; Theological Issues and Institutions

June 22 - Pray for our ecumenical worship service and for the preacher, Bishop Reginald Jackson, AME Church. Pray as we begin our plenary deliberations that all might seek the will of God.

June 23 - Pray for the discussion, debate, and discernment of God's will among the commissioners as we continue plenary sessions. Pray that all will remember that we are all parts of the Body of Christ, brothers and sisters within God's holy family.

June 24 - Pray as the commissioners continue the discussions and debates, especially as this day is likely to be long. Pray that the peace of the Holy Spirit might abound in this gathering, that the love of Christ will be evident even in disagreements.

June 25 - Pray for the final plenary session of the 222th GA, and for the closing worship. May God be glorified in all that is done in this place and at this time. May the commissioners and advisory delegates travel home safely, weary but filled with the Holy Spirit. May those who worked so hard to prepare for this GA be blessed.

May 18 Give thanks for the work of those in Cascades Presbytery who are organizing this General Assembly, especially as they head toward the final days of preparation. Give thanks for their efforts to provide opportunities for commissioners and visitors to learn more about the mission and ministries of the Church in their presbytery.

May 19 - Give thanks for the staff in Louisville who are helping to organize this meeting, providing guidance and experience.

May 20 - Give thanks for the congregations and membership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for those who quietly serve Christ in our communities, for those who speak for others whose voices go unnoticed, for those who give witness to God's grace and power in Jesus Christ to transform lives through the Holy Spirit, and for those who nurture the faith in so many.

May 21 - Pray for the nearly 200 Presbyterian mission co-workers in 50 countries around the world supported by our denomination. We give thanks for their work in evangelism, global education, community development, health ministries, peace and justice, and interfaith dialogue. Pray for our mission partnerships in 100 countries.

May 22 - Pray for the 171 presbyteries, for their faithfulness in ministry, in caring for congregations, in bringing us together as a connectional Church, for the many ministries they support in our communities, and the ways they care for our congregations through Committee on Ministry, and through offering educational and mission activities.

May 23 - Pray for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which reaches out in compassion during times of chaos both nationally and internationally; for Self-Development of People, which encourages and supports grassroots efforts to improve the lives of those who are struggling; and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which follows Christ's example of feeding the hungry and helping them find ways to provide food for themselves and others.

May 24 - Pray for the staff in Louisville, for the support staff and leadership who put into practice the decisions made by General Assemblies, who do the paperwork, monitor the spending, provide resources and support, develop communication pieces, and do many other tasks that usually go unappreciated, but would be missed if they were not done. Pray for the leadership of this amazing group of people, especially in this time of transition.

June 15 - Pray for Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, nominated for Stated Clerk

June 16 - Pray for David M. Baker who is running for Stated Clerk

June 17 - Pray as the commissioners and advisory delegates travel to the Assembly

June 18- Pray for the Opening Worship, for the over 4,000 Presbyterians and others expected to gather for this worship, for the choir members who will be sharing their gifts of music, that God will be given glory and praise, and honored not only in this worship but also in the conduct of all the business of the church which is also a form of worship. Pray for our opening plenary sessions, and for the election of the Moderator.

June 19 - Pray for the election of the Stated Clerk; and for first day of committee meetings: pray for all committees, especially: Business Referrals; Bills and Overtures, GA Procedures, The Way Forward, and Mid-Councils

June 20 -Second day of committee meetings: pray for all committees, especially: Church Polity and Ordered Ministry; Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Middle East Issues; Immigration and Environmental Issues; and Mission Coordination.

June 9 - Pray for the visitors to General Assembly, that they may all witness the presence of the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the fellowship through the Spirit which breaks down barriers and opens hearts to the oneness of the Church in Jesus Christ. May each person be received with dignity and grace, the concerns of each be heard, and differences be expressed with humility, for the building up of the Body of Christ.

June 10 - Pray for the people of Portland, who are welcoming us into their city, and who may be inconvenienced by our arrival. Give thanks for their hospitality.

June 11 - Pray for Moderator Ruling Elder Heath Rada, who has served this denomination faithfully for many years, and especially so in these past two years as moderator. Give thanks for his gracious spirit and reconciling presence.

June 12 - Pray for Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice-Moderator of the 221th GA, giving thanks for her faithful service.

June 13 - Pray for Teaching Elder Denise Anderson and Teaching Elder Jan Edmiston who are running for co-moderators of the GA.

June 14 - Pray for Teaching Elder Adan Mairena and Ruling Elder David Parker who are running for co-moderators of the GA.

May 25 - Pray for the 594 commissioners from all over the country who are reading pages and pages of preparatory material; pray especially for those who will be moderating committee discussions. Give thanks for their willingness to take their time to serve God in this way. Pray for open ears and hearts to hear God's word to each of them through the presentations and discussions. Pray for safe travel.

May 26 - Pray for the 63 colleges affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and for many other campus ministries in which Presbyterians support and play vital leadership roles. Pray also for the students who participate in these colleges and programs, and for those whose lives they touch through their faithfulness and witness to Jesus Christ. See <http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/financialaid/pdfs/pcusaschools.pdf> for the full list.

May 27 - Pray for the Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs). As Paul told Timothy not to let anyone despise his youth, so may the commissioners discern the wisdom of God which is given to these young adults, and may these young adults hear the wisdom of God spoken and enacted through all those gathered at GA.

May 28 - Pray for the Theological Seminaries affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and for the faculties, staff, and students of each. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the education of each that all may grow in faith and knowledge of the Lord, and be prepared to serve in the ministries to which each is called.

May 29 - Pray for the Theological Seminary Advisory Delegates (TSADs) who will participate in the General Assembly. Give thanks for the diversity of opinion and for the vision which God lifts before all through their combined witness.

May 30 - Pray for the Christian Education, Discipleship and Spiritual Development programs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We give thanks for the commitment to Biblical education and spiritual growth in assisting us with materials and programs for living out our Christian lives.

May 31 - Give thanks for the ecumenical emphasis historically a part of the Presbyterian tradition, and for our Ecumenical Advisory Delegates (EADs) who represent our partners in the proclamation of the Gospel in all places.

June 1 - Give thanks for our Missionary Advisory Delegates (MADs) who share the perspective of mission co-workers and the areas where they serve, often among the poorest of people, providing us with insight of God's work and love for all.

June 2 - Pray for the Evangelism efforts of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) , for the Engage Program and other resources, including Bible studies and reports, for the 1001 Worshipping Communities initiative that its purpose and progress will not be overshadowed by some problems.

June 3 - Pray for the Presbytery of Baltimore, for its diverse congregations and opinions, for its renewed efforts to emphasize the work of the congregation, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit among our congregations as we seek to work together in mission and ministry through our Ministry Groups. Pray for Moderator James Parks, Vice-Moderator Jack Carlson, and the staff.

June 4 - Pray for Baltimore Presbytery Ruling Elder Commissioner Guy Moody (St John United Methodist/Presbyterian Church)

June 5 - Pray for Baltimore Presbytery Ruling Elder Commissioner Anita Bishop-Johnson (Commissioned Ruling Elder at Living Faith fellowship)

June 6 - Pray for Baltimore Presbytery Teaching Elder Mark Hanna (Roland Park Presbyterian Church)

June 7 - Pray for Baltimore Presbytery Teaching Elder Merritt Schatz (Grove Presbyterian Church)

June 8 - Pray for Young Adult Advisory Delegate Hannah Teenies (Roland Park Presbyterian Church)