

Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency
Minutes **Draft v1**
Online
June 15, 2024

Gathering

The Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (“the Unification Commission”) held their nineteenth meeting online using Zoom, an online audio and web conferencing platform. The public was able to watch in real-time (and view a recording) via Vimeo, a video sharing platform, on the website of the Office of the General Assembly. Materials, including the agenda and minutes, were available to the public via EQUIP, a learning management system administered by the Officer of the General Assembly.

Roll

The roll was formed:

Commissioners (as appointed by the Co-Moderators of the 225th General Assembly (2022); criteria and demographics included for the record):

Felipe N. Martínez, Co-Moderator, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Ohio Valley;
Commissioner, 225th General Assembly (2022)

Cristi Scott Ligon, Co-Moderator, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee;
Commissioner, 225th General Assembly (2022)

Debra Avery, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Great Rivers; Moving Forward
Implementation Special Committee

Carson Brown, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of Peace River; Young Adult Advisory
Delegate, 225th General Assembly (2022)

Dave Davis, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of the Coastlands; Committee on the Office of
the General Assembly

Scott Lumsden, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Seattle; Per Capita and Financial
Sustainability Special Committee

Emily Martin, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of North Central California; Young Adult
Advisory Delegate, 225th General Assembly (2022)

Bill Teng, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Peace River; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
A Corporation Board

Kris Thompson, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of National Capital; At-Large

Ex-Officio:

Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator, 225th General Assembly (2022)

Shavon Starling-Louis, Co-Moderator, 225th General Assembly (2022)

Staff:

Barry Creech, Deputy Executive Director for Administration, Presbyterian Mission Agency
Kathleen Henrion, communications specialist

Kathy Lueckert, President, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation

Kerry Rice, Deputy Stated Clerk, Office of the General Assembly

Alejandra Sherman, Executive Assistant to the President, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Corporation

Guests:

Kelly Beeland, culture and change consultant
Ian Hall, Chief Financial Officer, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A Corporation

Excused:

Dee Cooper, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Denver; Presbyterian Mission Agency Board
Frances Lin, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Riverside; At-Large [Ordained Aug. 11, 2023]
José Rosa-Rivera, Ruling Elder, Presbiterio de San Juan; Per Capita and Financial
Sustainability Special Committee

Opening Prayer	Cristi Scott Ligon, co-moderator of the Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (“Unification Commission”), called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. ET on June 15, 2024, and recognized Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator, 225th General Assembly (2022), for an opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	Upon recognition, Cristi Scott Ligon, co-moderator of the Unification Commission, led the land acknowledgment of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Va. According to archeologists’ estimates, a succession of indigenous peoples occupied the Chesapeake and Tidewater region, arriving roughly 3,000 to 10,000 years ago. Those people of Algonquian and Nacotchtank affiliation who would coalesce into the Piscataway nation, lived in the Potomac (Patawomeck) River drainage area since at least AD 1300. Thanks were given for those who cared for this land and gratitude was given for the land itself.
Agenda and Minutes	By common consent and without objection, <u>the Unification Commission adopted the agenda</u> . Some of the materials, including the agenda and materials, were available to the public via EQUIP, a learning management system administered by the Office of the General Assembly. By common consent and without objection, <u>the Unification Commission adopted</u> the minutes of the May 18, 2024, online stated meeting.
Covenant	Cristi Scott Ligon, as co-moderator, read the covenant as a reminder of how the Unification Commission had agreed to engage this responsibility of this commission.
Key Unifying Principles	Cristi Scott Ligon continued by reminding the Unification Commission of their key unifying principles: Relational; Streamlined; Nimble; Justice Focused; and, Vision Driven.
Co-Moderators Report	Felipe Martínez, as co-moderator, provided their report, which included an overview of the preparation for the 226th General Assembly (2024). This included: recording an informational webinar on the work of the Unification Commission for an audience of GA commissioners and mid-council leaders; participating in a webinar on the 2025-2026 Unifying Budget; working with Kelly Beeland, culture and change consultant; and, drafting talking points for Unification Commission members to use at the 226th GA (2024).

Culture Consultant Report	Felipe Martínez, co-moderator, recognized Kelly Beeland for a report, which addressed the work completed since the May 18, 2024, meeting. The work focused on a thorough review of the available materials, focusing on the wants and needs of OGA and PMA. Conversations were held with the Unification Commission co-moderators regarding key themes and challenges to give a comprehensive assessment of current culture and potential challenges to change. These conversations were planned to form the key part of a report to the Unification Commission at the next stated meeting of August 8-9, 2024, intended to be in-person in Louisville, Ky.
Governance Working Group	Upon recognition, Debra Avery spoke for the Governance Working Group. A central topic of focus has remained the interim governance and leadership, and this was an intended topic for deep discussion at the in-person August 8-9, 2024, meeting.
Finance Working Group	Upon recognition, Scott Lumsden spoke for the Finance Working Group. Approximately 20 participants joined a webinar led by Scott Lumsden, Dave Davis, and Ian Hall, Chief Financial Officer, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A Corporation, for an overview of the 2025-2026 Unifying Budget.
Executive Session	Upon motion and second, and without discussion, the Unification Commission <u>voted to enter executive session to discuss matters of personnel and property</u> . Staff and guests were invited to remain.
Rising from Executive Session	Cristi Scott Ligon, co-moderator, announced <u>the Unification Commission voted to rise from executive session, and reported the Unification Commission vote to expand the scope of work of Kelly Beeland to include support of additional process planning</u> .
226th GA (2024) Planning	<p>Cristi Scott Ligon, co-moderator, recognized Kathy Lueckert, president, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, for a discussion on planning for the 226th General Assembly (2024). Kathy Lueckert noted the online committees that may require participation by the Unification Commission include: Financial Resources (2025-2026 Unifying Budget; and, the Special Offerings Report); General Assembly Entity Coordination (Report of the Unification Commission); and, Race, Sexuality, and Gender (expanding support for Latinx Ministries) will be meeting online, with the plenary gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah.</p> <p>Kerry Rice, Deputy Stated Clerk, Office of the General Assembly, provided an overview between a Resource Person and a Corresponding Member, and the privileges and processes of seeking recognition. For the online committee meetings, it was noted that viewing on three devices was optimal: one to watch the livestream video, one to access PC-Biz (the online credentialed website to handle General Assembly business, including seeking recognition); and, one device to access Zoom, if one was invited to address a committee. It was affirmed that the roles of Resource Person and Corresponding Members had been assigned. Coordination of staffing a resource table during three discreet times was addressed in Salt Lake City, Utah.</p>

Comments for the
Good of the Body
and

It was noted that Shavon Starling-Louis, Co-Moderator, 225th General Assembly (2022), was going to offer the closing prayer. Cristi Scott Ligon thanked the 225th GA (2022) Co-Moderators, for their ex-officio roles with the Unification Commission, which included the appointment of the members of the Unification Commission. It was observed the ongoing roles of ex-officio was still being discerned. The next meeting of the Unification Commission will be in-person on August 8-9, 2024, in Louisville, Ky., with August 7 and 10 used for travel.

Closing Prayer

Without objection, at the conclusion of a prayer by Shavon Starling-Louis, the Unification Commission adjourned at 4:45 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Raymond Bonwell
Recorder