

**Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission**

**Agency Saturday, January 21, 2023**

**Streaming on <https://oga.pcusa.org/ga>**

**3:00 - 5:00 pm Eastern Time**

**(2:00 pm Central/1:00 pm Mountain/Noon Pacific)**

**AGENDA**

3:00 p.m.	Welcome and Call to Order Opening Prayer	Felipe Martinez Emily Martin
	<b>CLOSED SESSION</b>	Cristi Scott-Ligon
	<b>Break</b>	
	<b>OPEN SESSION</b>	
	Land Acknowledgement	Felipe Martínez
	<b>FOR ACTION</b>	
	P.101 – Approval of Minutes - December 17, 2022, meeting	
	<b>FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organizing the Work</li><li>• Next Steps</li></ul>	
5:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Felipe Martinez, Cristi Scott Ligon

**Minutes of the Commission to Unify  
the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Online  
December 17, 2022**

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 with prayer at 3:00 p.m. EST. By common consent the draft agenda was adopted.

Roll      The roll was formed:

Commissioners (as appointed by the Co-Moderators of the 225<sup>th</sup> 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)

Dee Cooper, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of Denver; Presbyterian Mission Agency Board

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

Frances Lin, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of San Diego; At-Large

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)

José Rosa-Rivera, Ruling Elder, Presbiterio de San Juan; Per Capita and Financial Sustainability Special Committee

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

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

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

Press:

Mike Ferguson, Presbyterian News Service,

Leslie Scanlon (Presbyterian Outlook)

Land Acknowledgement	Kathy Lueckert provided the land acknowledgment for the greater Louisville, Ky. area, including the Osage and Shawnee Nations.
Greetings	Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis brought greetings to the Commission and expressed their deep gratitude for commission members. (Recorder's Note: in the GA Co-Moderators announcement of the commission roster on the November 21, 2022, special words of gratitude were provided to staff shepherd and leadership of, Ruling Elder valerie izumi, Assistant Stated Clerk, as well as the supportive consultations and contributions from the Rev. Anna Kendig Flores and the Rev. Dr. Eric A. Thomas, co-moderators of the General Assembly Committee on Representation, and the Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena, moderator of the General Assembly Nominating Committee.)
Executive Session	There is a General Assembly tradition for smaller bodies to begin their work with a closed session for purposes of team building. Felipe Martínez made a motion to enter executive session. Upon second, discussion, and action, the Commission entered executive session. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis (ex-officio), and Barry Creech, Kathy Lueckert, and Kerry Rice (staff), were invited to participate.
Rising from Executive Session	Upon rising from Executive Session, Cristi Scott Ligon noted no actions were taken. Press rejoined the meeting.
Commission Charge and Powers	Kerry Rice provided an overview ( <i>Attachment 1</i> ) of the charge to the Unification Commission from the 225 <sup>th</sup> GA (2022), and outlined its powers and responsibilities, including determining mission priorities for the denomination. It was shared Raymond Bonwell, previous corporate secretary for the Board of Pensions, may be providing administrative support to the Commission. An overview of timelines, including the 120-day deadline for reports to the General Assembly, was provided.
Open Discussion	Staff shared a common document site would be established in early 2023, with resources to include organizational charts.  Felipe Martínez and Cristi Scott Ligon asked all future questions and requests be directed to them, in their role as co-moderators.
Future Meetings	By common consent, it was agreed the next meeting of the Unification Commission will be Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST, online. The Unification Commission will meet in person (with an online option) in Louisville, Ky. on March 9 – 11, 2023. More information will be forthcoming in early 2023.
Closing Prayer	By common consent, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with a closing prayer offered by Felipe Martínez.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathy Lueckert  
Acting Recorder

**Unification Commission  
The Next Six Months**

**Unification Commission  
January 21, 2023**

	2023					
	February	March	April	May	June	July
Meetings		March 9-11 (in person)			(Felipe away)	(Felipe away)
Context/Resources						
Mandate						

**Mandate:**

- Oversee and facilitate unification
- Revise the Organization for Mission
- Align entities, boards, committees, and constituent bodies of GA toward long-term faithfulness and financial sustainability of its mission
- Establish missional and ecclesial coordination
- Determine strategies and priorities across all entities, boards, committees, and constituent bodies where all available dollars, responsibilities, and charges are evaluated and unified to provide best accomplishment of GA goals
- Provide governance for, and have the authority to assume all governance functions of, PMAB and COGA, as necessary
- Consult with:
  - Representatives from OGA, PMA and all other agencies, committees, staff and PCUSA entities
  - their boards
  - advocacy and advisory committees, and
  - mid councils
  - executive leadership of PMA and OGA
- Review, address, and align financial agreements including per capita, restricted and unrestricted funds...to support the new Organization for Mission so that each area of mission has adequate funds to sustain its mission long-term.
- Determine the structure moving forward and present new Organization for Mission to GA 2026.