

**Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and  
the Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Presbyterian Center, Louisville, KY – Conference Rooms 1C and 1B  
August 8-9, 2024**

**DRAFT Agenda**

<b>Thursday, August 8</b>		
9:00 am	Welcome and Call to Order	Felipe Martinez, Cristi Scott Ligon
	Convene with prayer	Cristi Scott Ligon
	Land Acknowledgement	Kathy Lueckert
	Covenant	Cristi Scott Ligon
	<i>Key Unifying Principles</i> : Relational, Streamlined, Nimble, Justice Focused, Vision Driven.	
	Approve June 15, 2024, meeting minutes	
	Greetings from Stated Clerk	Jihyun Oh
	General Assembly Recap / Co moderators report	Felipe Martinez, Cristi Scott Ligon
	Work Group Reports	
	• Governance Work Group	Deb Avery
	• Finance Work Group	Scott Lumsden
	Comment on Committee of the Whole	Felipe Martinez
10:20	Break – <b>Livestreaming stops</b>	
10:35	Committee of the Whole	
<b>Friday, August 9</b>		
4:00	Reconvene in open session – <b><i>Livestreaming Starts</i></b>	
	Recap of Meeting	Felipe Martinez, Cristi Scott Ligon
	What's Next	
5:00	Adjourn and closing prayer	Felipe Martinez, Cristi Scott Ligon
	Dinner on your own	

**Next Meeting:**

September 15, 2024, by Zoom  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Commission for the Unification  
of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency**

**COMMISSION COVENANT**

- To pray for one another
- To speak and listen with respect
- To inhale and exhale, to remember to breathe
- To have a posture of open mindedness, ready to listen, not quick to make decisions but seek understanding first
- To offer grace as we share collective witness
- To address things authentically, transparently and directly
- To make tough decisions
- To not be bound by our assumptions
- To be open to the Spirit's new options we haven't even considered
- To stay trusting in God
- To know when to speak and act, and know when to be quiet and wait for decisions to come in their time
- To be sensitive to the mindset of staff from OGA and PMA, to pray for them, to be a calming force
- To be consistent in how we communicate officially and unofficially
- To not take ourselves too seriously
- To support and care for one another
- to address things authentically, transparently, directly with the intention of gaining clarity in discussion.
- to assume good intentions.

<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/committees/ga-special-committees-and-task-forces/commission-unification-oga-pma/#covenant>

*Adopted on December 17, 2022  
Amended on April 5, 2024*

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

Unification Commission, Minutes **Draft v1**, June 15, 2024, Page 2 of 4

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).

Unification Commission, Minutes **Draft v1**, June 15, 2024, Page 3 of 4

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	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.

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.

Unification Commission, Minutes **Draft v1**, June 15, 2024, Page 4 of 4

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

## Governance Workgroup Report

### August 2024

**Summary:** Since the last Commission meeting, our team has focused on developing and revising a draft of an Interim Governance (IntGov) structure. We met weekly for 60-90 minutes with the exception of the two weeks of General Assembly.

**Meeting with the PMA Leadership:** We met with the Rev. Michelle Hwang and the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo to learn more about the current responsibilities of PMAB. They provided us with information regarding some of the work that will need to be overseen during the interim period. We learned more about the history of the shape and composition of the Board, including how regional representation has historically been managed. We gained more clarity around the review processes the Board undertakes as part of their responsibility to oversee the President/Executive Director. The current work of the board is centered around identifying and focusing on the different forms that the repair of historic harm needs to take. We also gained an understanding of the intersection of PMAB with other boards, committees, and entities as both a human resource need (smaller board means it's harder to fill invitational seats) and a structural matter that is connected to the work of both the Board and PMA.

**Meeting with UC Members Representing COGA and PMAB:** In order to ensure we had sufficient input regarding the draft of the Interim Governance, we met with two UC members who couldn't attend this August meeting. Dave Davis and Dee Cooper met with us, both in their roles as the representatives of their Committee/Board as well as in their capacity as a UC member. They offered significant input which helped us shape the draft for Interim Governance.

# Finance Workgroup Report // August 2024

Unification Commission Meeting, Louisville, KY

**Good Job Team!:** We continue to be encouraged by the good work that led us up to and through the General Assembly in Salt Lake City. As we embark on some significant work ahead as a commission, it's good to remember that we are indeed up to this unification challenge when we approach this as a team.

**Budget Reductions:** As you are aware, the Unified Budget passed with \$5M in reductions over 2025-2026. With summer schedules in full swing, we have not been able to make much progress on what those reductions will be, but we're hopeful that we'll have a specific recommendation on how to reach this goal by our October meeting. It might be helpful to know that the financial reduction itself may not be the biggest hurdle, but instead establishing a process for evaluating current ministry and program across a unified national church.

See you in Louisville!

The Finance Workgroup