



***WORSHIP AND WORK OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(USA) IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL***



222nd General Assembly---Day 2

"The Hope in our Calling" Ephesians 1:18

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

CHRISTIANITY AND THE WORLD

Sunday morning (the second full day of the General Assembly) began with breakfast for myself and several other mid council leaders to hear a presentation by Dr. Phillip Jenkins (Baylor University). Sponsored by the Presbyterian Foundation, Dr. Jenkins offered an overview of the many changes in Christianity around the world since the Reformation. Based upon conversions, demographic shifts and cultural changes, he noted the current and projected statistics of Christian churches in both Africa and Asia. The Church, the body of Christ, is tilting toward the increased numbers within other cultures and other parts of the world. For those of us who have become so accustomed to seeing, understanding and sometimes grieving the rise and decline of Christianity in the west, such news reaffirms the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ who has not abandoned his people or his work even though it may no longer "look" like the Christianity of our American past.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Participants in the General Assembly were afforded opportunities to join together with Church in local Presbyterian congregations around the greater Portland area. Personally, I attended the Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego where I was able to run into a person who was a student at

Lewis and Clark College during my time and currently, serves as an associate pastor in that congregation. Other Redstone commissioners participated in a variety of services. You can hear from a couple of them on their experiences through the [Presbytery of Redstone Facebook page](#).

STATED CLERK NOMINATION

If you did not already know, Grady Parsons will be retiring from the position of Stated Clerk at this General Assembly after 8 years of service. Because it was announced a number of months ago, a nominating committee was charged with the task of interviewing and recommending a candidate for the position. Earlier this spring, the committee announced their selection of Rev. J. Herbert Nelson. The report of the committee was presented to the plenary session this afternoon. Within our procedures, other candidates who had applied are also eligible to "stand for election" for this position. As a result, Rev. David Baker(Tampa Bay Presbytery) indicated that he would also participate in the election for the position. Because the next Stated Clerk is elected for a 4 year term by the gathered General Assembly, both candidates made presentations to the Sunday afternoon plenary and answered questions. The General Assembly will vote for the person for this position on Friday morning. Please pray for the commissioners as they elect the person who represents the denomination in ecumenical and interfaith relations.

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS (YAV Program)

A video presentation on the Young Adult Volunteer program (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/sites/>) played on the big screens in the convention center in many ways showing the future of the church. Capturing the passion and power of transformation through service in finding God's calling, the video expressed through words and actions God's *hope in our calling* in young adult volunteer participants. Audience members were asked to identify if they were either a former YAV, parent of a YAV or from a presbytery from which a YAV originated. Nearly every hand went up under at least one of these categories demonstrating the breadth of this program. You may know that within the Presbytery of Redstone, Mara Sawdy has served as a YAV this year in the Washington, DC area. See her blog here...<https://marasawdy.wordpress.com/>

COMMITTEES

With the evening session on Sunday evening, the work of the committees is initiated. In those committee structures, each group will consider the overtures that have been submitted and concurred by presbyteries throughout the denomination. Solicited by the moderator, a Bible study curriculum was developed for shared use among all the committees. In the first study, the focus was on the life of King David and God's use of him with all of his blessing and brokenness. The responsibility of each committee is to review each overture, deliberate on it, revise or not, and vote its approval or

disapproval before being passed on to the General Assembly in plenary session. Consequently, each of our Redstone commissioners and our YAAD solicit your prayers for each of them and their committees. The particular person and committee is listed below.

Bernice Adams---Social Justice

Colleen Molinaro---Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations

**Mandi Pascarella--- Polity and Ordered Ministries
Curtis Paul---Peacemaking and International Affairs
Tom Shipley---GA Procedures**

"A Picture (or video) is Worth a Thousand Words" (select link below or for more pictures, see Presbytery of Redstone Facebook page)

[NBA fans watching game 7](#)

[Colleen @Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations](#)

[Bernice @Social Justice](#)

[Worship with Portland Presbyterians](#)

[Colleen on her worship experience](#)

[Our YAAD First Reactions to the GA Experience](#)



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