



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



222nd General Assembly---Day 3

"The Hope in our Calling" Ephesians 1:18

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES

In the context of the General Assembly, much of the early work on proposed overtures takes place through the assigned committees. While it does take hours of time, to hear from one another and be challenged by each other in the body of Christ cannot be rushed.

Just as a reminder, overtures are submitted to the General Assembly by a presbytery or synod. Each overture also requires a concurrence of at least one other presbytery. Overtures are discussed and voted upon in the various committees for approval or disapproval before being offered to the General Assembly in plenary session with a recommendation to approve or disapprove. If an overture requires a constitutional change in the Book of Order or the Book of Confessions.

Today, in morning, afternoon and evening sessions, your commissioners and others like them participated in presentations, questions & answers, small group discussions regarding the overtures assigned to their committees. In my own observations, committee chairs worked hard to make these "meetings" genuinely times of openness and discernment.

Often, we forget the "way" we "do" discernment within our tradition. For us, the process of discernment takes place through dialogue, discussion and even debate. Ultimately, in prayerful listening, reflection and finally voting, we express our own sense of the leading of the Holy Spirit through such action.

So, it is "how" we do things. It may not always happen that way in your session or even within the presbytery, but in this context within a national gathering more structure and following an orderly process becomes imperative both for having voices heard and still reaching conclusions.

As mentioned before, you can follow the progress of various overtures through the PC-Biz website(www.pc-biz.org). Please take a few minutes over the next couple days to see the work of your commissioners and people like them from around the country within these committees.

As you read below, my own guest blog entry for Presbyterians Today focuses on this day and the processes we use for discernment.

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY

Besides my own Enews daily updates, perhaps you have been following GA news through other sources on various social media. If not, please permit me to suggest the blog entries generated through the magazine, Presbyterians Today which is edited by our colleague Rev. Sue Washburn. You can read entries offered by Sue and other guest bloggers about impressions and reflections of the General Assembly.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/today/category/general-assembly/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Some of us had the opportunity to participate in a luncheon presentation on addressing the issues of human trafficking. Perhaps, you have been aware of this issue for some time, but somehow thought it did not happen in our area. The reality is that forced labor occurs all over the world, including even here. For the report that was submitted and approved by the committee today, please see PC-Biz.

If you are interested in learning more, I might suggest the following websites as just a selection of some that provide more information.

freedomnetworkusa.org/
www.sharedhope.org
polarisproject.org/

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Additionally, there is a denominational resource as a toolkit at:
www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking

And an app and game to learn more:
<http://lifeboat-act.com/>

Of course, more things happened today than I could ever adequately represent in this Enews. All of us from Redstone thank you for your prayers and your support. Serving our Lord in this way stretches us to think beyond the immediacy of our own daily concerns.

For this intensive period of time, virtually every waking moment is spent in "being the church" in this type of setting. Here the big concerns that face our church and our world are placed before us in ways we can no longer ignore, but need to address in one way or another.

I encourage you to continue to pray for your commissioners. Tonight and tomorrow can be the days when people begin to wear down. When plenary sessions resume on Wednesday, a renewal of energy occurs for a period of time. So, we continue to covet your prayers for "energy, intelligence, imagination and love" as we serve the church in this way.

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

[Tom resolving GA procedures in the hallway](#)
[Bernice in the midst of the crowd of Social Justice](#)
[Co-Moderators greeting the Mid Council committee](#)
[Always the "meeting" after the meeting\(just like in our sessions\)](#)
[No "rest"\(maybe a little\) for the weary](#)
[Get "energized" at GA](#)



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