



March 13, 2024 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

COGA recommends Milwaukee as site for 227th General Assembly *Recommendation to go before 226th General Assembly this summer.*

By Rick Jones, Office of the General Assembly
for Presbyterian News Service

(PNS) — The Presbytery of Milwaukee is being recommended as the host of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2026. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) voted in favor of the recommendation during its virtual two-day meeting last week. Kate Trigger Duffert, OGA’s director of General Assembly planning, said the city can meet all the needs for hosting an assembly.



“The planning team works with the Stated Clerk to identify cities which are within the region of the country assigned for the upcoming assembly year. We look into the capacity of each location to host an event of this size in a way that is accessible to all Presbyterians,” she said. “From there, we connect with presbyteries to identify if they are interested in collaborating on hosting the assembly. After a site visit to get a sense of the city and its facilities, staff evaluate each location and make a recommendation to COGA.”

The planning team recently visited Milwaukee and came away impressed. Members of COGA and Office of the General Assembly staff met via Zoom February 15-16, 2024.

“During our site visit we were able to see how Milwaukee has transformed in recent years. Downtown is filled with local businesses, opportunities to see art and architecture and a clear investment from the community to build a vibrant city center,” Trigger Duffert said. “It was clear that bringing the General Assembly to Milwaukee would be an outstanding chance to support this development and, in turn, share the city with the PC(USA).”

Trigger Duffert said the Presbytery of Milwaukee is excited and enthusiastic about the opportunity to host the 227th General Assembly. “We are grateful for their commitment and joy and look forward to collaborating with them as we plan for 2026.”

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OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

CLICK ON THE LOGOS



Music Notes for Sunday 17 March

The anthem for this week, *Teach Me, O Lord*, takes its text from one of this week's Scripture readings, Psalm 119. The refrain will be sung between Psalm verses read by liturgist Bill Pannill.

The music was composed by David Hurd (b. 1950), who served as Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at General Theological Seminary in New York City for 39 years. He is currently Director of Music/Organist at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Times Square. Hurd is also an active concert organist. *Teach Me, O Lord* is one of over 100 choral and organ compositions published by



Hurd.

227th General Assembly, continued

The 226th General Assembly will vote on the recommendation during its gathering in Salt Lake City this summer. Trigger Duffert said the format of the 227th General Assembly will basically be the same as this year's gathering, with committees meeting online and plenary sessions in person.

“This will allow the planning team to learn from our fourth iteration of assembly formats in recent years and use those learnings to better the implementation of the assembly,” she said. “In 2026, commissioners in Milwaukee will have the chance to recommend formats for future assemblies, but we are looking forward to a bit of consistency in planning between Salt Lake City and Milwaukee.” Trigger Duffert also presented the committee structure for this year's assembly. The list includes:

- Bills and Overtures — assists in monitoring the work of other committees as well as reviews plenary minutes and participates in plenary discussions.
- Mid Councils — receives items of business related to the operation and function of mid councils.
- Financial Resources — receives all items of business dealing primarily with finance and budgeting.
- General Assembly Entity Coordination — receives all items related to the operation and functions of assembly entities, including amendments to the Organization for Mission, reports from the Unification Commission, and approval of workplans.
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Partnerships — receives all business related to the development of and engagement with ecumenical and interfaith partnering institutions.
- Polity — receives items recommending constitutional changes to the Book of Order and Book of Confessions.
- Ordination — receives all items of business related to the role and process of ordination including exams, accommodations, and other ordination concerns.
- General Assembly Procedures — receives items of business related to the operation and function of General Assembly reports as well as overtures related to assembly operations, amendments to the Standing Rules, and recommendations for future assemblies.
- Christian Formation — receives items related to Christian education (including colleges and seminaries), worship, and other types of Christian formation.
- International Engagement — receives items of business related to events, concerns, and opportunities in international contexts.
- Domestic Engagement — receives items of business related to events, concerns and opportunities around issues such as gun violence, political rhetoric, and economic concerns.
- Race, Sexuality, and Gender Justice — receives items of business-related to justice actions focused on race, sexuality, and gender identity. This also includes items related to reproductive justice, anti-racism, and anti-trans legislation.
- Environmental and Climate Justice — receives items related to environmental and climate justice issues such as divestment, environmental sustainability, and international climate agreements.
- Assembly Committee on Business Referral — comprised of the moderators and vice moderators of committees of the 226th General Assembly.

Committees for the 226th General Assembly will meet online June 25–27. Plenaries will be held on site at the Salt Palace Convention Center June 29–July 4.

Lenten Lunches



at FPC

Join each at noon Wednesday in Lent
for a simple meal
and discussion of the Book of James.



Better
Together
Presbyterians in Action



Game Night!

**DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES?
(Checkers? Card Games? Dominoes?
Board Games?).**

Friday, March 15, at 7:00 pm
Smyrna Presbyterian Church
174 Doods Crossing Road, Waynesboro
Bring your favorite snack and join us for an
evening of fun and fellowship! All are
welcome!!!

This Week in History.



The French Foreign Legion is created by King Louis Philippe, from the foreign regiments of the Kingdom of France.

March 10, 1831



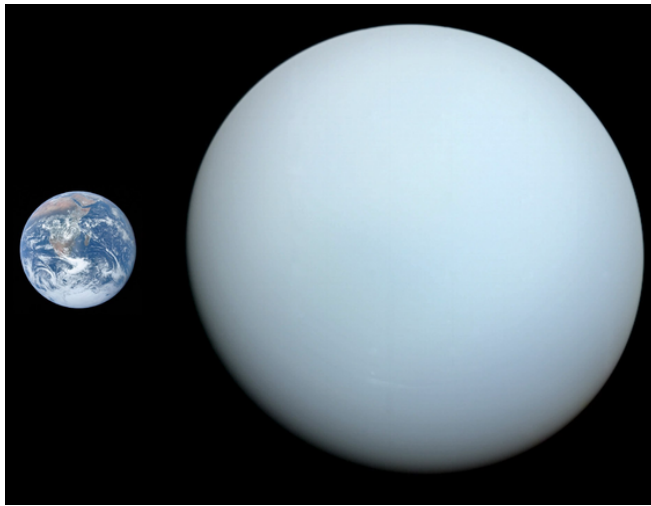
The Great Blizzard of 1888 begins along the eastern seaboard of the United States, shutting down commerce and killing more than 400 people.

March 11, 1888



Juliette Gordon Low introduces *Girl Guides* from England, forming the first troop in Savannah, GA. The organization would grow to become the *Girl Scouts of the USA*.

March 12, 1912



William Herschel discovers Uranus; ten year old boys have been laughing ever since.

March 13, 1781



The body of U.S. President John F. Kennedy is interred in its final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery.

March 14, 1967

NORMAL PITTSBURGH, 1936



FLOODED PITTSBURGH, 1936



Maine is admitted as the twenty-third U.S. state.

March 15, 1820

Warmer-than-normal temperatures rapidly melt snow and ice on the upper Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, leading to a major flood in Pittsburgh, PA.

March 16, 1936