

## DAILY SCHEDULE

NARRATOR 2: Hello, my name is NARRATOR 2. I'm here to tell you more about the daily schedule of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

You will be busy during the General Assembly. You will spend time in worship, business sessions, and in committees. We call assembly meetings "plenary sessions" to signify that everyone is in attendance. They start and end in prayer. In between are presentations of information, recommendations, debate on proposals, and voting - lots of voting, not only for elections but also on issues to be determined by the assembly.

All of this business means a lot of work for you at the assembly. But it also means a lot of preparation as well. Apart from prayer, perhaps the most critical step in preparation is the commitment to read through the items of business and the related resources. Materials, including resources like the *Book of Order*, the *Book of Confessions*, the *Manual of the General Assembly*, the *Bible*, and *Parliamentary Procedure for Presbyterian Meetings*, are available online at PC-biz.

This year, all commissioner and advisory delegates will attend an introduction to anti-racism training as approved by the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. This will take place on Friday afternoon, June 20, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Please be sure to arrange your travel so that you can fully participate. On Saturday business begins and you will be oriented more fully to your role. Saturday night you will elect the Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from among the commissioners gathered. The Moderator presides over the plenary meetings the rest of the week and serves the church until the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly elects its Moderator in 2010.

On Sunday evening, committees begin their work. Commissioners and advisory delegates are randomly assigned to committees and you will receive your assignment later this spring. Committees must consider all of the business assigned to it, determine what recommendations it will make to the assembly, and write a report of its actions. The report becomes the collection of the combined wisdom of your committee. It is a big task, but commissioners and advisory delegates alike often report they believe that the most important work of the assembly takes place here.

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The assembly comes together again on Wednesday to consider the reports brought to it by the committees. This work continues through Saturday morning. This year, however, plenary includes the election of a new Stated Clerk. The election will take place on Friday morning and will include at least the nominee chosen by the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee. Others who have previously submitted their names according to the *Standing Rules* may be nominated on Sunday before the beginning of committee work.

Finally, be sure and wear comfortable shoes, and dress in layers. Though days will be warm, convention centers and meeting rooms are often quite cool. It is not uncommon to see participants wearing jackets and scarves on the floor of the assembly!

This is only a brief introduction to the daily schedule during General Assembly. A more detailed schedule, as well as business docket, will be available later.

ONSCREEN: for more information, contact:

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