

**MINUTES**  
**Stated Meeting**  
**COMMITTEE ON THE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**March 21, 2024**  
**Video Conference**

<b>WELCOME</b>  The Stated Meeting of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) convened via video conference at 12:00 p.m. by Moderator Eliana Maxim.	<b>WELCOME</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND AND OPENING PRAYER</b>  Stephanie Anthony offered the acknowledgment of the sacred ground of our indigenous ancestors. Anthony then gave the opening prayer.	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND AND OPENING PRAYER</b>
<b>APPROVE AGENDA [1.1]</b>  By consensus the Committee approved the meeting agenda as presented.	<b>AGENDA APPROVAL [1.1]</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  <b>MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND APPROVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AS AMENDED:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>February 15-16, 2024 [1.2]</li></ul>	<b>MINUTES APPROVAL [1.2]</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>  The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:  <b><u>COGA Members</u></b> Eliana Maxim, Moderator Dave Davis, Vice-Moderator Stephanie Anthony Matt Bussell, Corresponding Member from PMAB Joseph Chu Mark Hong Andy James Chenyangu (Cheni) Khonje Blythe Kieffer Leanne Masters Amos Mendez Robin Pugh	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>

Miguel Rosa Morales  
Sallie Watson  
Bronwen Boswell, Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly,  
ex officio  
Diane Moffett, PMA Executive Director/President, ex officio  
Ruth Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator of the 225<sup>th</sup> General  
Assembly (2022)

**Excused**

Lynn Hargrove

**OGA Staff**

Tim Cargal  
Luci Duckson-Bramble  
Kate Duffert  
Tricia Dykers Koenig  
Laurie Griffith  
Rick Jones  
Jihyun Oh  
Joshua Park  
Kerry Rice, Deputy Stated Clerk  
Meg Rift  
Nancy Taylor  
Ken Tolley  
Dianna Wright

**Other Guests**

April Davenport, Legal Counsel  
Ruth Gardner, ASG  
Ian Hall, ASG  
Mike Kirk, Legal Counsel  
Sara Lisherness, PMA  
Kathy Lueckert, ASG

**REPORT OF THE COGA MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR**

Vice-Moderator Dave Davis reported that he has been working with fellow COGA member Cheni Khonje on the General Assembly Event honoring former Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II.

Khonje shared the plans to celebrate Herbert's ministry with the church including a time for invited people to pay tribute to him. In addition, a video will be shown. COGA members are expected to attend.

Moderator Eliana Maxim reported that the COGA Nominating Committee has just been activated. According to COGA Standing Rules, the membership of this committee includes the outgoing class which this year is Stephanie Anthony, Lynn Hargrove, and Andy James. They will work with appropriate staff and committees to do their work.

**COGA MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR REPORT**

Moderator Maxim also shared updates to COGA workgroups. The workgroups now include:

**Referrals and Business**

- Kate Duffert (Staff Support)
- Andy James
- Lynn Hargrove
- Joe Chu
- Blythe Kieffer
- Stephanie Anthony
- Dave Davis
- Robin Pugh
- Leanne Masters
- Miguel Rosa Morales
- Mark Hong
- Matt Bussell
- Amos Mendez

COGA members were encouraged to review the business on PC-Biz to see what’s coming to GA prior to the next meeting in April and to think about which items might need COGA’s attention. After the April meeting this workgroup will do more of their work and further discussion will continue at the in-person May meeting in Salt Lake City.

**GA228**

This committee is at a standstill until after the completion of GA226. The members from this committee (Duffert, Davis, Pugh, Masters, and Rosa Morales) will instead be working with the Referrals and Business workgroup.

**Role of Stated Clerk**

- Ruth Gardner (Staff Support)
- Chenyangu Khonje
- Ruth Santana-Grace
- Sallie Watson

**Unification Commission Update – D. Davis**

The PMA Board and COGA will meet together in May in Salt Lake City and hear from Unification Commission co-moderators Felipe Martinez and Cristi Scott Ligon. COGA members will meet with the Committee on Local Arrangements of Utah Presbytery and approve the unified budget, after which will have a joint lunch. After lunch COGA will be given a tour of the Salt Palace Convention Center.

**REPORT OF THE CO-MODERATOR OF THE 225<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Co-Moderator Ruth Santana-Grace shared her and Co-Moderator Shavon Starling-Louis’ recent experiences; in early March they made appointments to the General Assembly committees, Santana-Grace recently traveled to Rome and was

**CO-MODERATOR OF THE 225<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT**

<p>able to talk with World Council of Reformed Churches and others and had a brief meeting with Pope Francis. They are working on their GA report and Santana-Grace will be preaching at two different seminaries in the next month.</p>	
<p><b>REPORT OF THE ACTING STATED CLERK</b></p> <p>Acting Stated Clerk Bronwen Boswell reported on her recent involvements which included at trip to Salt Lake City for GA Planning Committee work, committee nominations, in New York City for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and met with the Mission Presbytery’s Presbyterian Women at Mo Ranch in Texas. This week she is in Louisville meeting with Mid Council Leader Orientation attendees, and continuing to work on the budget preparation and the unification of communications. Rick Jones was recently named Director of the newly unified communications departments.</p> <p>Deputy Stated Clerk Kerry Rice announced that plans for celebrating Boswell’s tenure as Acting Stated Clerk are underway.</p>	<p><b>ACTING STATED CLERK REPORT</b></p>
<p><b>OGA IN FOCUS FEATURE</b></p> <p>A video entitled “Korean-Speaking Councils Support” (part of a series made by OGA’s communications team) featuring Joshua HeeJoon Park, was shared, followed by a chance to ask questions of him.</p>	<p><b>OGA IN FOCUS</b></p>
<p><b>UPDATES</b></p> <p><b>Stated Clerk Nomination Committee (SCNC) Report</b> COGA Member and Chairperson of the SCNC Sallie Watson reported the following: There are two finalists who will be interviewed in early April and the committee is hoping to make the announcement before April 26.</p> <p><b>GA226 Planning Update</b> Director of GA Planning Kate Duffert shared the Committee List with Preliminary Business Assignment [Item 1.3] and described several of the processes for getting business to the proper committees. Although originally presented for informational purposes, after some discussion it was decided that COGA needed to approve this document.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Approval of Committee List with Preliminary Business Assignment [Item 1.3]</p> <p><b>MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</b></p>	<p><b>STATED CLERK NOMINATION COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>ACTION [ITEM 1.3]</b></p>

<p>Next Duffert discussed the process by which moderators and vice-moderators were appointed as well as the process for inviting the rest of the committee leaders. [Item 1.4]</p> <p>The process for providing interpretation in Spanish and Korean was shared and then Duffert talked about securing GA volunteers and the breadth of people who are involved.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Approval of GA Volunteers [Item 1.7]</p> <p><b>MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</b></p> <p>The Leader Briefing [Item 1.5] document was shared as Duffert walked the group through the agenda. Leader Briefing is scheduled for April 8-10, 2024 in Louisville.</p> <p><b>2025-2026 Budget Update</b> Deputy Stated Clerk Kerry Rice shared a PowerPoint presentation about the unified budget process that OGA, PMA, and ASG are working toward which was followed by a time for questions and answers.</p>	<p><b>ACTION [ITEM 1.7]</b></p>
<p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>Information about booking travel to Salt Lake City for the May COGA meeting will be sent to COGA members next week.</p> <p>The next COGA meeting will be April 18, 2024, 12 noon, Eastern time.</p>	<p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p>There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm with prayer offered by member Joseph Chu.</p>	<p><b>CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT</b></p>

Respectfully Submitted:

Jayne Culp