

Committee on the Office of the General Assembly Response to Referral from the 225th General Assembly (2022)

Item MC-11. Resolve that on an annual basis each presbytery shall compile a list of non-ordained persons who died during the previous year after giving years of faithful service to the church. This list shall include those who have served congregations, presbyteries, synods, and national staff. A memorial moment of thanksgiving will be observed at the subsequent General Assembly and the names entered into the minutes.

Response: Unfortunately, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly was unable to consult with the author of this commissioner's resolution because he died suddenly soon after the 225th General Assembly. COGA did reach out to the co-signer of the resolution who communicated that they did not have any particular passion to consult on this referral.

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly gives thanks for the large number of non-ordained persons whose gifts are generously shared through their service to the church and community. The desire to memorialize those who have given faithful service to the church is a demonstration of the importance of their witness. The General Assembly meeting currently includes a memorial period for minister of the Word and Sacrament, mission co-workers, and others known to have served the broader church, based on its role as stewards of these records. COGA believes the most appropriate place for the kinds of memorials suggested in this resolution is one that is closer to the location of service - the session or congregation, presbytery, etc.